NATION

SC raps Centre over OROP dues to ex-Army captains

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BUSINESS

Market rises for 3rd day on gains in Tata & HDFC

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SPORTS

Hands in pocket, eyes locked, shoulders relaxed & they delivered

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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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Manu shoots glory twice, clinches Bronze with Sarabjot

Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh PHOTO: PTI

PARIS, 30 JULY

Manu Bhaker was composure personified while Sarabjot Singh played an ideal foil as the pair won the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze defeating South Korea to script history at the Olympics here on Tuesday.

Bhaker scripted history to become the first Indian athlete in post-independence era to win two Olympic medals in a single edition of the Games.

The Indian pair defeated the Korean duo of Lee Wonoho and Oh Yeh Jin 16-10 to earn the country its second medal at Chateauroux's shooting range. The 22-year-old Bhaker had earlier snared the women's 10m air pistol bronze medal at the same venue on Sunday, wiping off the memories of a horrendous Olympic debut in Tokyo 2020 where her pistol malfunctioned leaving her in tears.

Before Bhaker, British-Indian athlete Norman Pritchard had won two silver medals in 200m sprint and 200m hurdles at the 1900 Olympics but that achievement had come in the pre-Independence era.

- Before Bhaker, British-Indian athlete Norman Pritchard had won two silver medals in 200m sprint and 200m hurdles at the 1900 Olympics but that achievement had come in the pre-Independence era.

While it is a massive achievement for women's sport in the country, Tuesday's medal is also redemption for Sarabjot, who had failed to make the men's 10m air pistol final, finishing ninth on Saturday with a score of 577.

"I'm feeling really proud and there is a lot of gratitude, thanks for all the blessings," said Bhaker after the match, which the two young Indians played with remarkable poise to make it a one-sided contest.

Ambala shooter Sarabjot, who passed through a difficult phase trying to come to terms with the disappointment of the individual competition just three days back, said he was under a lot of pressure to perform.

"I'm feeling good, the game was very tough and there was a lot of pressure, I am very happy," said the 22-year-old Sarabjot, who comes from a farming family. —*PTI*

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SC collegium names 2 lawyers for Ch'garh HC judges

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

The Supreme Court on Tuesday recommended the names of two advocates for appointment as judges of the Chhattisgarh High Court.

The collegium headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and BR Gavai recommended to the Centre names of Bibhu Datta Guru and Amitendra Kishore Prasad.

On 21 February, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Chhattisgarh in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues recommended the names of Guru and Prasad for appointment as judges of that High Court.

The collegium said inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file of Guru indicate that there is nothing adverse against the integrity of the candidate.

The collegium said inputs provided by the Department of Justice in the file of Prasad indicate that the candidate enjoys a good professional image. —*PTI*

Rescue operation underway after a landslide triggered by heavy monsoon rains in Wayanad district on Tuesday PHOTO: PTI

123 KILLED IN KERALA'S WORST LANDSLIDE

Hundreds trapped as rescue agencies race against time

WAYANAD, 30 JULY

In one of the worst natural disasters in Kerala, at least 123 people were killed and 128 injured in massive landslides triggered by torrential rains in Wayanad on Tuesday. With hundreds trapped under the debris, sparking fears of mounting fatalities, rescue agencies were racing against time to pull out any survivors.

The landslides cut off at least four villages in the district, with rescue efforts hampered by continued rains and blocked roads. Most of the victims were tea estate workers and their families who were asleep in makeshift shelters.

Heart-wrenching scenes and phone conversations of several people crying and pleading to be rescued, as they were either trapped in their houses or had no way to move out of places where they were stranded, were witnessed after the landslides that left a trail of death and destruction in the picturesque hamlets of Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala and Noolpuzha.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said, "This is one of the most severe natural disasters our state has ever seen." More than 3,000 people have been shifted to 45 relief camps set up in the district, Vijayan added. He said the first landslide occurred at 2 am, followed by another at 4.10 am, adding that Meppadi, Mundakkai and Chooralmala areas have been cut off and the Chooralmala-Mundakkai road has been destroyed. The Vellarimala GHSS school has been completely buried under the earth and the Iruvazhinjipuzha river has split into two.

Rescue teams comprising the Army, Navy and NDRF are looking for survivors amid the rough weather.

To reinforce the rescue efforts, additional columns comprising 200 soldiers, medical teams and equipment from the Defence Security Corps (DSC) Centre in Kannur and the Territorial Army from Kozhikode have also been pressed into service.

Some people broke down at the shock of seeing the cold and injured bodies of their kin, while others heaved a sigh of relief at not finding them among the deceased. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000. The Kerala government declared official mourning in the state on Tuesday and Wednesday. Meanwhile, One person has been reported missing in a landslide that hit Vilangad area of the Kozhikode district in Kerala on Tuesday. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin spoke to Vijayan and directed officials in Tamil Nadu to release Rs 5 crore in funds to Kerala for relief activities and tasked them with sending a rescue team. —*PTI*

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Karnataka provides help to Kerala

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said that all necessary cooperation is being provided by the state government for rescue and relief operations in neighbouring Kerala's Wayanad, which has been devastated by landslides. "My heart goes out to the affected families. Karnataka is committed to providing all possible help to Kerala," he said.

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UP bill proposes lifer for religious conversion convicts

LUCKNOW, 30 JULY

UP Minister Suresh Khanna PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Tuesday passed a bill to amend the Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act-2021, making the law stricter by providing for a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

Earlier the maximum punishment provided for those found guilty of marrying a woman by deceiving her and illegally converting her religion was 10 years with a fine of Rs 50,000.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna introduced the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the House on Monday.

He said that in the amendment bill it has been proposed that if a person threatens, attacks, marries or promises to marry or conspires for it, or trafficks a woman, minor or anyone with the intention of conversion, then his crime will be placed in the most serious category.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav slammed the State government over the bill, accusing it of trying to divert people's attention through communal politics.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Khanna said that under the amended provisions, now any person can register an FIR in conversion cases. Earlier, to give information or complaint about the case, the presence of the victim, her parents, or siblings was necessary, he said.

Meanwhile, the State government presented a supplementary budget of more than Rs 12,909 crore for the 2024-25 financial year in the assembly.

State Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna said the supplementary budget of Rs 12,909.93 crore is 1.66 per cent of the original Budget (of Rs 7.36 lakh crore) presented in February this year. —*PTI*

Woman 'raped' by driver in Telangana's moving bus

HYDERABAD, 30 JULY

A 26-year-old woman passenger was allegedly raped by a driver of a private sleeper bus travelling from Nirmal district of Telangana to Prakasam in Andhra Pradesh, police said on Tuesday.

The woman called the 'Dial 100' and informed the police about the incident after midnight on Monday when the bus was on the outskirts of Hyderabad, they said.

Police intercepted the bus. When the vehicle slowed down near the Mettuguda area here, the accused driver fled, a police official said.

The woman told the police that the accused, one of the drivers of the bus, put a blanket in her mouth and allegedly raped her on the moving bus even though other passengers were there.

Meanwhile, the person who was driving the bus was taken into custody and was being questioned, the official said.

Techie raped by friend

A 24-year-old software engineer was allegedly raped by two men, including her childhood friend.

The woman's complaint to the police said that on Monday night, her childhood friend, who also was her classmate earlier in school, wanted to celebrate her getting a new software job and both of them went to a restaurant-cum-bar in Vanasthalipuram.

Both of them consumed liquor there, after which the man took her into a room on the restaurant's premises and raped her when she was in an inebriated condition, following which a cousin of his also subsequently entered the room and raped her. —*PTI*

2 killed, 22 injured as train derails in Jharkhand

JAMSHEDPUR, 30 JULY

Two people were killed and 22 others injured after 18 coaches of the Howrah-Mumbai Mail derailed in Jharkhand's Seraikela-Kharsawan district early on Tuesday, officials said.

The accident occurred at 3:45 AM in Potobeda village near the Barabamboo station in the Kharsawan block, they said. One wagon of the goods train had derailed and fell on other tracks on which the Howrah-Mumbai Mail was coming, an official said, adding that the passenger train hit the wagon, resulting in the derailment of 18 coaches. The accident site is near the border between West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts. —*PTI*

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Iran's new Prez sworn-in, vows to fight sanctions

Tehran, 30 JULY

Iran swore in the country's new President on Tuesday, with the reformist politician and heart surgeon Masoud Pezeshkian pledging that his administration will keep trying to remove economic sanctions imposed by the West over Tehran's controversial nuclear programme.

Pezeshkian delivered a speech after taking his oath in a ceremony at the parliament in Tehran, Iran's capital. He said he considers the normalisation of economic relations with the world to be Iran's inalienable right. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Sunday officially endorsed Pezeshkian, urging him to prioritise neighbours, African and Asian nations. Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday attended the ceremony in Tehran. —*PTI*

LOK SABHA APPROVES RS 48.21 LAKH CRORE FOR UNION BUDGET 2024-25

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Lok Sabha approved the Rs 48.21-lakh crore Budget for 2024-25 of the Union Government. The lower House also approved the budget of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with a voice vote.

The Union Budget and Budget for J&K was passed by a voice vote by the Lok Sabha. The relevant appropriation bills were also passed by the House. Replying to the debate, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the fiscal deficit of the central government is proposed to be brought down to 4.9 per cent of the GDP during 2024-25 and further to below 4.5 per cent by 2025-26. —*PTI*

INDIA rallies in Delhi, demands Kejri's release

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Senior INDIA bloc leaders came together at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Tuesday to demand the release of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, and asserted that the BJP-led Central government does not have adequate numbers and will not survive for long.

NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar, Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and Congress leaders Gaurav Gogoi and Pramod Tiwari took part in the protest to show solidarity with AAP over the arrest of its national convener. Many of the Opposition bloc leaders also accused the Centre of obstructing the work of the Delhi government and claimed that it had led to the recent incident in Old Rajinder Nagar where three students died after getting trapped in a flooded basement of a coaching centre.

Addressing the protest rally amid slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "End dictatorship", Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal hit out at the BJP, saying its politics is about "hatred" and "stopping" the work of residents of the national capital. She also alleged that her husband's life was in danger in Tihar. Kejriwal was arrested on 21 March by ED in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam and has been granted bail by Supreme Court. —*PTI*

ON PANGONG LAKE

China completes 400m bridge near LAC

LADAKH, 30 JULY

China has completed the construction of a 400m bridge near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and has operationalised it. According to the stalete this bridge connecting the north and south banks of Pangong Lake.

New satellite images showed that this bridge will reduce the time needed by China to mobilise its troops and equipment. The bridge is expected to reduce the travel distance between the lake's banks by approximately 50-100 kilometers, significantly cutting travel time.

The reports of China constructing the nearly 400-metre bridge first emerged in early 2022 PHOTO: PTI

The reports of China constructing the nearly 400-metre bridge first emerged in early 2022. Incidentally, the start of the military standoff between India and China in Ladakh sector of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) began in 2020.

Initial reports on the construction of the bridge surfaced in early 2022 roughly two years following the commencement of the armed stalemate between China and India in the Ladakh sector of the Line of Actual Control (LAC). India has never tolerated such an unlawful takeover of its territory, the External Affairs Ministry stated when the first reports of the bridge's building surfaced. China's military is allegedly preparing for a long haul in the region surrounding Pangong Lake. Hardened shelters for armoured vehicles and underground bunkers for weapon storage and fuel have been built at a strategic site near Sirjap. —*Salar News with agencies*

HEAVY RAINS CAUSE LANDSLIPS IN SHIRADI GHAT, SAKLESHPURA

Traffic hit on B'luru-M'luru NH; villagers blame canal construction for disaster

A massive landslip occurred near Harle Estate in Sakleshpura on Monday night **PHOTO: X/@KRISHNABGOWDA**

BENGALURU, 30 JULY

Incessant rains have resulted in several landslips in coastal and south interior Karnataka on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

A massive landslip occurred near Harle Estate in Sakleshpura on Monday night, sweeping away a portion of the road that serves as an alternative to Bengaluru-Mangaluru highway. The landslip isolated Mallegadde, Kadumane and Harle villages and surrounding areas from hobli and taluk headquarters. The road collapse and land sinking up to a depth of 80 feet have made it dangerous for agricultural activities.

The villagers blamed the construction of Yettinahole canal, only 200 metres from the landslide, for triggering these landslides. Social media reactions have been critical of the Yettinahole project with one X user commenting, "Congratulations to the ones who are batting for the Yettinahole Project. The Western Ghats are bearing the brunt of this unnatural project. View of the pottery in Sakleshpura. This may include the unscientific Yettinahole Project Pipe."

In a separate incident, a major landslide at Shiradi Ghat near Doddathople in Dakshina Kannada district has disrupted traffic on Bengaluru-Mangaluru National Highway. Another landslip occurred near Puttur in Dakshina Kannada on Mangaluru-Madikeri National Highway.

Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre has issued a landslide alert for Wednesday, affecting 33 taluks across several districts. Chikkamagaluru district administration has appealed to tourists to postpone their travel plans to the region until further notice, given heavy rains.

—Salar News

Coffee growers suffer 60% yield loss due to heavy rain

HASSAN, 30 JULY

Coffee growers in State have incurred 60 per cent yield losses after heavy rains lashed and damaged plantations in the coffee heartlands of the state.

Heavy and continuous rains and cold weather in the hilly districts of Hassan, Chikkamagaluru for the past month have adversely affected the coffee and pepper crops.

This year, in summer, excessive temperatures were recorded, due to which the coffee crop was damaged.

Due to the continuous rains that are currently pouring down, the coffee crop growers are facing 60 per cent yield losses.

Meanwhile, due to excessive wind and rain, trees were uprooted and damage was caused in the plantations.

Along with coffee, the black pepper crop was also affected by blight, and along with trees, pepper vines were also downed.

A coffee farmer of Kanenahalli, Satish, said, "This year it rained a lot. We are facing a lot of issues due to the rain in the state. Coffee beans are falling due to the heavy rain and winds. There is a huge loss of coffee. We don't have money to pay the men who have been working here. I appeal to the government to help us out," he said.

Coffee is traditionally grown in the Western Ghats, spread over Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Coffee is a perennial crop and the maintenance cost of this crop is high.

—ANI

A residential area flooded after Bhadra river overflowed due to heavy rains, in Chikkamagaluru on Tuesday **PHOTO: PTI**

NO ADDITIONAL WATER FLOW AT BILIGUNDLU: CWRC

BENGALURU, 30 JULY

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee said there appears to be no immediate concern regarding the water flow at Biligundlu.

In a statement, the committee acknowledged that while there has been an excess water flow of 36.34 TMC at Biligundlu over the stipulated 40.43 TMC, there is no immediate cause for concern.

Citing the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's order, the CWRC proposed that the excess water flow be accounted for in the subsequent months. This decision comes after Karnataka presented data indicating that the cumulative storage in its Cauvery reservoirs is currently at 62 per cent.

As of 29 July, the observed flow at Biligundlu was 1,08,876 cusecs, bringing the total outflow to 86.17 TMC. Karnataka claims this fulfils its water release commitments until the end of August 2024.

However, Tamil Nadu, which has already opened the Mettur dam for irrigation, has urged the CWRC to ensure State adheres to the flow schedule as per the Supreme Court's judgment. The committee has scheduled a meeting next month to reassess the situation. *—Salar News*

State dispatches supplies, rescue teams to Wayanad

BENGALURU, 30 JULY

Rescue operation underway at landslide-hit Wayanad **PHOTO: PTI**

Karnataka has pledged its full support to Kerala in the wake of the devastating landslides in Wayanad district. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on Tuesday that the State is deploying two IAS officers to oversee rescue and relief operations in the affected region.

A team of 70 personnel from the Madras Engineer Group (MEG) of the Indian Army, along with essential supplies, has already been dispatched from Bengaluru. This is in addition to the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team that has been mobilized. An additional contingent, comprising two more officers, four JCOs, and 100 army personnel equipped with protective gear, also departed in 40 vehicles.

To expedite the relief efforts, the Chief Minister has directed the removal of restrictions at the Bandipur Check Post, ensuring a smooth passage for rescue teams and supplies. Medical aid, including hospital services and transportation for the injured, is being organized with the Chamarajanagar district administration setting up a helpline.

Mysuru district administration has also made necessary arrangements to provide medical treatment at local hospitals.

Karnataka Public Works Department is providing heavy machinery like JCBs and cranes to assist in the clearance of landslides. To manage traffic congestion, the Bangalore-Wayanad National Highway 766 has been temporarily closed, with motorists advised to use the Gundlupet-Bandipur-Gudalur route.

As concerns grow about Kannadigas stranded in Wayanad, the Chief Minister has assured that all steps will be taken to ensure their safe return.

The Chief Minister released the helpline numbers for the effective coordination, senior IAS officers PC Zafar (mobile no 9448355577) and Dileesh Shashi (9446000514) have been appointed to manage the operations in Wayanad.

In response to concerns about Kannadigas stranded in Wayanad, the Chief Minister assured that all necessary measures will be taken to ensure their rescue. The Chamarajanagar Collector Office has also provided helpline numbers for assistance. The numbers are: 08226-223163, 08226-223161, 08226-223160 and WhatsApp number: 9740942901. *—Salar News*

State seeks land in Bengaluru from Defence Ministry

BENGALURU, 30 JULY

State government has requested Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to allot lands from defence properties for infrastructure projects in Bengaluru. In a letter submitted to Singh during a meeting in Delhi on Tuesday, Siddaramaiah outlined the need for defence lands to support 12 major projects aimed at improving the City's infrastructure. The letter stated, "I request land parcels for the eight projects with the extra land of 17.50 acres near ASC headquarters. The projects include 24-metre road plan at Ejjipura to Sarjapura main road, National Highway 7 from Sanjivinagar to AMCO layout, and other road-widening projects at Agram Road." He also sought land for Baiyyappanahalli rail overbridge and Suburban Rail Project. -Salar News efforts. *—Salar News*

BBMP truck driver held after truck kills 2 techies

BENGALURU, 30 JULY

The City traffic police on Tuesday arrested Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) garbage truck driver Shivashankar following an accident in which two people lost their lives. After the collision, the driver reportedly fled the scene. The incident occurred near KR Circle. Shivashankar, who was employed on a contractual basis with the BBMP, is currently being interrogated by the Halasuru Gate police. His blood samples have been sent for forensic analysis to determine if he was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident. BBMP has also issued a notice to the contractor who hired Shivashankar, mandating the provision of Rs 5 lakh as compensation to the families of the victims. The deceased were reportedly on their way to dinner when the accident happened. The deceased have been identified as Prashanth, 25, a resident of Banaswadi, and Bayyanagiri Shilpa, 27, a native of Andhra Pradesh. Shilpa was staying as a paying guest in Whitefield. Both the deceased worked at the TCS as software engineers. *—Salar News*

JD(S) panel requests leadership, BJP to postpone foot march

BENGALURU, 30 JULY

JD(S)'s State Core Committee on Tuesday decided to request its leadership and that of BJP to postpone their foot march over the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment scam seeking to corner Congress government and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. They cited continued rain and flooding in the state.

There is no question of going back from the agitation against the Congress government in the State and its alleged corruption, they asserted. The two Opposition parties have decided to hold a foot march from Bengaluru to Mysuru from 3 to 10 August.

"At the time when most parts of the State are facing flood-like situations and landslides, people and farmers are in distress. There is loss of lives, crops and livestock -- we will have to visit them," said core committee chief GT Devegowda said."

Further, people of Bidadi, Ramangara, Channapatna, Mandya, Maddur, Srirangapatna, Mysore, the route through which the 'padayatre' (foot march) passes wants Kumaraswamy to participate in the march; they are saying that they will not participate without him, they want him to take the leadership and participate.

> **At the time when most parts of the State are facing flood-like situations and landslides, people and farmers are in distress. There is loss of lives, crops and livestock -- we will have to visit them**
>
> -GT Devegowda, JD(S) core panel chief

2 BJP leaders strike discordant note

Two BJP leaders have struck a discordant note much to its discomfiture. BJP MLAs Basangouda Patil Yatnal and Ramesh Jarkiholi have sought approval from the party's central leadership to organise a "parallel march" to put the government on the mat by highlighting the alleged financial irregularities in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd.

The two legislators have been openly critical of the party state President BY Vijayendra accusing him of indulging in "adjustment politics" and trying to keep the party in his clutches along with his father and veteran party leader BS Yediyurappa.

The parallel march is proposed from Ballari to Bengaluru. *—Salar News*

CONG TO COUNTER FOOT MARCH WITH PUBLIC MEETINGS

BENGALURU, 30 JULY

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said the ruling Congress has planned to organise public meetings to counter the Opposition BJP-JD(S)' foot march over the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment scam.

The two opposition parties have decided to hold a foot march from Bengaluru to Mysuru from 3 to 10 August in protest against the alleged fraudulent allotment of sites to land losers by MUDA, including to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi, and demanding his resignation.

Reiterating that the police will not give permission to the foot march, but also won't stop them, the Minister, however. warned action against any activities in violation of law.

Parameshwara accused the opposition of indulging in "false propaganda and spreading information that is far from truth." *—Salar News*

AAP PROTEST

Aam Aadmi Party members protest against the arrest of Delhi CM Aravind Kejriwal, in Bengaluru on Tuesday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

STATE TO DEPORT ILLEGAL B'DESHIS

BENGALURU, 30 JULY

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said Bangladeshi nationals illegally staying in the state will be sent to detention centres and necessary action will be taken to deport them.

Parameshwara said the police will identify those who come to Karnataka from Bangladesh.

"If they don't have valid documents like passport, visa, they will be arrested immediately and sent to detention centres; after that, we will inform Bangladesh High commission or Ambassador, about the arrest of their nationals and seek their permission to deport them," Parameshwara told reporters here in response to a question. *—Salar News*

KARNATAKA EARNS RS 1,403 CRORE BY SELLING POWER

BENGALURU, 30 JULY

Karnataka has raked in Rs 1,403 crore over the last three months by selling power in the open market, said Energy Minister KJ George on Tuesday.

"Karnataka is producing 250 million units of power daily, with 180 million units being consumed locally and 20 million units returned to Punjab and Uttar Pradesh under a barter arrangement. The remaining 40-50 million units are sold on the open market, contributing to the Rs 1,403 crore in sales since 20 May, 2024," George said.

The plants under Karnataka Power Corporation Limited generated 22,313 million units, raking in Rs 10,916 crore. This includes the continuous operation of Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) units for 103 days during the summer.

George said the government is trying to restore power infrastructure in flood-affected Chikkamagaluru, Shivamogga, Udupi, Hassan, Sakleshpur and Kodagu. The total loss for the corporation has been estimated at Rs 96.61 crore. The Energy Department will inaugurate State's first gas-based 370 MW Integrated Periodic Power Plant near Yelahanka and 11.5 MW waste-to-energy power generation plant at Bidadi next months.

—Salar News

Police, BBMP join hands to crack down on hoardings

BENGALURU, 30 JULY

BBMP has joined hands with Bangalore City police to crack down on the unauthorised hoardings in City.

City Police Commissioner B Dayananda said the City police will check if anyone is putting up the hoarding at night. After a meeting with officials of the two departments on Tuesday, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said as part of the joint operation, BBMP officials will report unauthorised banners, flexes and hoardings to police, who will then remove them.

The commissioner said a Standard Operating Procedure would be established and each police station would assign a nodal officer to coordinate between BBMP and police department. This SOP will include visiting printing units in the City to warn them against producing unauthorised advertisements. Unauthorised prints found will be confiscated, and the units involved will face fines and legal action.

Citizens can report sightings of unauthorized banners by calling the BBMP's helpline number 1533 or 9480683939.

PHOTO: PTI

Additionally, BBMP is considering developing a mobile application to streamline the reporting and handling of such advertisements.

BBMP Special Commissioner Munish Maudgil said since 1 July, 2024, more than 8,500 unauthorised banners have been removed, and more than 180 FIRs have been filed in the City. He highlighted that these banners often violate environmental protection regulations and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board guidelines.

—Salar News

'FAILED PROMISES'

Fund crunch hits NRI Forum Karnataka

DANIEL GEORGE
BENGALURU, 30 JULY

The NRI Forum Karnataka, established to support Kannadigas living abroad, cannot fully carry out its tasks and implement schemes allegedly due to insufficient budget allocation by State government.

The forum, established in 2008 during the tenure of former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, remains stalled without the necessary funds. Speaking to **Salar News,** Arathi Krishna, Deputy Chairperson of the forum, said: "I have repeatedly asked for funds even before the State budget 2024. I have been assured that there would be an allocation for the forum in the supplementary budget, but nothing materialised."

Krishna, inspired by the Non-Resident Keralites' Affairs (NORKA) model, aims to implement a similar structure in Karnataka. She said her department is drafting guidelines and that the forum has recently secured a new office in Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru, with staffing underway.

Arathi Krishna (inset), Deputy Chairperson of the forum, said State Budget 2024 ignored the needs of NRI Forum Karnataka. **PHOTO: PTI**

The former staffer with Indian Embassy in Washington said: "We plan to organise 'Pravasi Kannadiga Divas' to bring all Karnataka NRIs together when the NRIs come to India for Bharatiya Pravasi Divas in January."

Krishna, who took charge in 2014, said the forum plans to issue NRK cards and insurance schemes to those who lost their job while working abroad. "We also plan to provide interest-free loans to NRIs who are interested in business and cultural programmes abroad," she said.

Addressing the financial strain on families repatriating deceased loved ones, Krishna said her department would seek government assistance for this issue.

On voting rights for NRIs, Krishna stated, "I have always supported offering voting rights for NRIs through our diplomatic missions, and this has even been included in the Congress manifesto. It would help our people in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries who are deprived of their voting rights as it is difficult for them to just visit India to exercise their franchise."

During the recent Assembly session, a group of NRIs from Karnataka observed the proceedings and appealed for government attention to their issues. Krishna also plans to bring various Karnataka associations in the Gulf and other parts of the world under the forum's purview.

—Salar News

- The forum, established in 2008 during the tenure of former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, remains stalled without the necessary funds. Speaking to Salar News, Arathi Krishna, Deputy Chairperson of the forum, said: "I have repeatedly asked for funds even before the State Budget 2024."

PHOTO: PTI

SC grants bail to NCP's Malik on medical grounds

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail on medical grounds to former Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik in a money laundering case. A bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma took note of the submissions of a counsel, appearing for Malik, that he was suffering from various ailments. The ED had arrested Malik in February 2022 in the case allegedly linked to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his associates. The ED's case against Malik is based on an FIR filed by the National Investigation Agency against Ibrahim, a designated global terrorist and a key accused in the 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts, and his associates under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. *—PTI*

Lakshman Prasad Acharya sworn in as Assam Governor

GUWAHATI, 30 JULY

Lakshman Prasad Acharya was on Tuesday sworn in as the 32nd Governor of Assam. He succeeded Gulab Chand Kataria, who has been appointed as the Governor of Punjab and administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Vijay Bishnoi administered the oath of office to Acharya, with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, other Ministers and several dignitaries in attendance. Acharya, 59, who will also hold additional charge of Manipur. A former RSS and BJP member, Acharya was also a part of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council. Earlier in the day, the CM and his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sarma called on outgoing Governor Kataria and his wife at the Raj Bhavan to bid them farewell. *—PTI*

TMC's Mondal gets bails in cow smuggling case

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Anubrata Mondal, who was arrested by the CBI in a cattle smuggling case. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and SC Sharma granted the relief to Mondal after noting that the trial in the matter would take time and he has been in jail for two years. The top court directed Mondal to cooperate in the investigation and surrender his passport. CBI had claimed that Mondal was the main facilitator for the smooth transportation of cattle through West Bengal's Birbhum district to Bangladesh. Mondal's counsel had stated that no such evidence was found. *—PTI*

SC to hear against Shinde in Sena vs Sena on 7 Aug

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will hear on 7 August a plea of the Uddhav Thackeray faction challenging Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar's order declaring the Shiv Sena bloc led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde as the "real political party" after its split in June 2022. The speaker had also dismissed the disqualification petitions of the Thackeray faction against Chief Minister Shinde and his supporting MLAs. The observation related to the hearing of the Thackeray faction's plea came from a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud when senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the party, flagged the issue of tagging of the plea with another pertaining to the NCP row. The bench, also has justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra . *—PTI*

No state left out in Budget: Sitharaman

FM attacks RaGa, says halwa an emotional & sentimental matter for FinMin staff

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday termed misleading claims by opposition leaders that if any state is not named in the Budget speech, then it does not get any allocation.

"I have been picking up on Budget speeches since 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and so on. The Budget of 2004-2005 did not take the name of 17 states. I would like to ask the members of the UPA government at that time - did money not go to those 17 states? Did they stop it?" Sitharaman said.

Congress on Tuesday claimed that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had "pulled a fast one" on NDA allies in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh given that most announcements in the Budget will not see light of day for a few years.

Sitharaman defended the customary pre-budget Halwa ceremony, saying that it has been going on since budget papers were printed at a press on Minto Road, and the sweet dish was prepared by the staff themselves as an Indian tradition before the start of something auspicious.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman PHOTO: PTI

Taking on Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Sitharaman said it is an emotional matter for the Finance Ministry staff who spend 5 nights and 4 days in quarantine to ensure the secrecy of the Budget proposals. *—PTI*

RaGa slams Centre as PSB collect Rs 8.5K cr penalty

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday slammed the government over public sector banks collecting crores in penalty from customers for not maintaining average monthly balance. His attack on the government came after it emerged in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha that public sector banks collected around Rs 8,500 crore under this head in five years starting from FY 2019-20. Minister of state in the finance ministry Pankaj Chaudhary also informed that state-run banks have charged depositors Rs 2,331 crore penalty for not maintaining average minimum balance. *—PTI*

Covid-19 started from non human sources: Nadda

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday informed the Rajya Sabha that epidemics such as Nipah virus outbreaks and Covid-19 originated from a non-human source and crossed over to humans at the animal-human interface, highlighting the importance of a One Health approach that integrates human, animal and environmental health for tackling emerging diseases.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an autonomous body under the Department of Health Research, has informed that over the past few decades, various epidemics and pandemics of new and emerging diseases of zoonotic origin have culminated into public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC), Nadda said.

The examples include Nipah virus outbreaks in India and Bangladesh (2001 onwards), SARS in Hongkong (2002- 03), H5N1 avian Influenza (2005 onwards)Ï¾ H1N1 in 2009, MERS in 2012, Zika in 2014 and SARS- CoV-2 in 2019 which subsequently caused the Covid-19 pandemic. *—PTI*

Anurag Thakur and Rahul Gandhi PHOTO: PTI

Anurag, Rahul spar in Parl over caste census

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

BJP leader Anurag Thakur's apparent reference to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's caste during a discussion on the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday triggered an ugly spat between the opposition and treasury benches.

Gandhi accused Thakur of insulting and abusing him during the debate but asserted that he would not seek any apology from the former Union minister.

Questioning the Congress' stand on caste census, the BJP leader made certain remarks on Gandhi's caste that triggered an uproar and had Congress members trooping into the Well of the Lok Sabha.

"Anurag Thakur insulted me and I don't want any apology from him. Abuse or insult me as hard as you can but don't forget we will pass the caste census in this Parliament for sure," the Leader of the Opposition said.

Launching a scathing attack on Gandhi for his "chakravyuh" jibe at the BJP-led government a day earlier, Thakur cited purported portions from a book authored by Shashi Tharoor to hit out at successive Congress governments since 1947 and alleged the former Congress chief misinterpreted his position of LoP as "leader of propaganda".

Thakur also took a jibe at Gandhi, who stood up twice to counter his remarks targeting the previous Congress governments.

"Udhar ki buddhi se rajniti nahi chalti (You can't indulge in politics on borrowed wisdom)," Thakur said. *—PTI*

Seize 'chance' to attract int'l deals, PM to India Inc

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India is firmly on the path to becoming the world's third-biggest economy within next five years and that global investors are eyeing it as an investment destination, as he exhorted the domestic industry to seize the golden opportunity to be part of the journey of 'Viksit Bharat'.

Addressing a CII post-Budget conference on 'Journey Towards Viksit Bharat', he said, wealth creators are the main driving force of the country's growth story at a time when India's policies, commitment, determination, decisions and investments are the basis of global progress.

With high growth and low inflation, he said, India is a beacon of growth and stability in a world which is facing high inflation and low growth and other challenges.

PM Narendra Modi PHOTO: PTI

India is growing at 8 per cent and the day is not far when the country will become the third-largest economy globally from current fifth position.

Modi underlined some points in the budget such as increased allocation for nuclear power generation, Digital Public Infrastructure for agriculture, Bhu-Aadhar card for providing number to land parcels of farmers, Rs 1,000 crore venture capital fund for space economy, Critical Mineral Mission, and auction of blocks for mining. *—PTI*

JUSTICE AWAITED

USPC aspirants worried as classes remain suspended

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

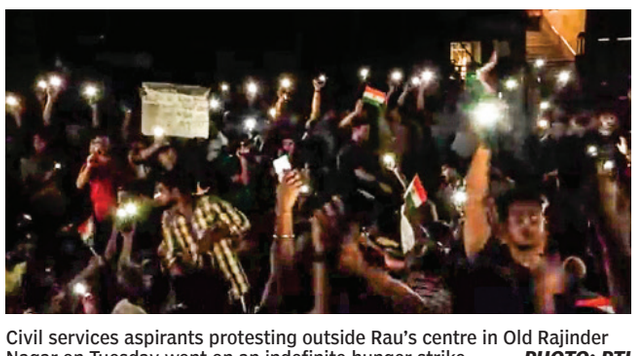
UPSC aspirants and coaching centres in Mukherjee Nagar and Rajinder Nagar are in a state of uncertainty as classes remained suspended in the wake of MCD's sealing drive against establishments operating illegally from basements.

The new batch of UPSC aspirants, slated to start in the first week of August, is likely to be delayed as most coaching institutes in the areas have suspended their operations, fearing crackdown by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

Students are worried about their preparation for the approaching exams.

According to MCD building bye-laws, basement of a building can only be used for parking or storage purpose. Using it for commercial purpose is prohibited.

There was no biometric lock system in the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle students of the institute said.



Civil services aspirants protesting outside Rau's centre in Old Rajinder Nagar on Tuesday went on an indefinite hunger strike PHOTO: PTI

According to some reports, the three students were trapped as the biometric lock malfunctioned after water gushed in heavy rain.

A 22-year-old student of Rau's IAS Study Circle said no biometric lock system was installed in the basement of the building.

A day after renowned coaching institute Drishti IAS's basement was sealed over violation of laws, its owner Vikas Divyakirti said Tuesday the anger among students over the Rajendra Nagar flooding incident was justified and demanded that authorities implement guidelines for centres. *—PTI*

HC to hear plea seeking setting up of panel

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Delhi High Court has agreed to hear on Wednesday a plea seeking to constitute a high-level committee to probe the incident in which three civil service aspirants drowned at the basement of a coaching centre in Old Rajinder Nagar.

The plea was mentioned for urgent hearing on Tuesday before a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela which said the matter be listed on Wednesday if the petition is in order by afternoon.

Meanwhile, a court here Tuesday reserved its order on the bail plea of an SUV driver who was arrested in connection with the flooding of a coaching centre's basement in the Old Rajinder Nagar area which led to the death of civil aspirants. *—PTI*

Revanth launches 2nd phase of crop loan waiver

HYDERABAD, 30 JULY

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday launched the second phase of his government's crop loan waiver scheme with an outlay of over Rs 6,198 crore, which would benefit about 6.40 lakh farmer families.

The Chief Minister and his cabinet colleagues started the second phase of disbursal of money for the loan waiver at an event held on the premises of the legislative assembly.

While the loans of farmers who borrowed up to Rs one lakh were waived in the first phase on 18 July, loans of up to Rs 1.50 lakh are being dispensed with in the second phase.

Speaking on the occasion, Revanth Reddy recalled that the Congress had promised, in the form of a 'rythu declaration', at a public meeting held at Warangal in 2022 in the presence of Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, that loans of up to Rs two lakh would be waived to help farmers.

Since Independence, no state has implemented loan waiver of Rs 31,000 crore as is being done by the Congress government in Telangana, which is a record in the country's history, he said.. *—PTI*

ONLY CENTRE CAN LIFT 50% CAP ON QUOTA: UDDHAV

MUMBAI, 30 JULY

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday said the state lacks the power to remove the 50 per cent cap on reservations, asserting that only the Centre has the authority to raise the ceiling limit through Parliament.

Thackeray slammed Eknath Shinde-led government over the vexed Maratha reservation issue and demanded deliberations with various sections to find a solution through mutual understanding instead of holding discussions with politicians. *—PTI*

EVM-VVPAT VERIFICATION

Can't review order on EVMs: SC

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Supreme Court has dismissed a petition seeking review of its 26 April verdict that rejected the pleas for complete cross-verification of votes cast using the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

Terming the suspicion about manipulation of the EVMs "unfounded", the apex court had on 26 April rejected the demand for reverting to the old paper ballot system, saying the polling devices were "secure" and they eliminate booth capturing and bogus voting.

PHOTO: PTI

A plea seeking review of the verdict came up for consideration in-chambers before a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta.

VVPAT is an independent vote verification system which enables electors to see whether their votes have been recorded correctly.

In its judgment delivered in April, the top court had opened a window for the aggrieved unsuccessful candidates securing second and third places in poll results and allowed them to seek verification of microcontroller chips embedded in five per cent EVMs per assembly constituency on a written request upon payment of a fee to the poll panel. *—PTI*

'USED AGAINST SCRIBE'

Editors Guild writes to Shah, seeks criminal laws' review

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Editors Guild of India has sought a review of the new criminal justice laws that were implemented this month, contending that their provisions could potentially be used against journalists.

In a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the guild has said over the years and under successive governments, many provisions under criminal laws, the "so-called" offensive-speech laws in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) -- sections 153A, 153B, 295A, 298, 502 and 505 -- have been liberally used to file FIRs against journalists whose reporting has been critical of the establishment.

The Guild said a complaint against a journalist should be reviewed by a high-ranking police officer PHOTO: @editorsguild.in

The guild has suggested an additional level of review before a criminal complaint is registered against journalist.

The guild has said a complaint against a journalist should be reviewed by a high-ranking police officer and the same may be brought to the notice. It has requested for a thorough review of the criminal laws from this perspective and offered itself for substantive consultation on the issue. *—PTI*

CONG TO CHOOSE NEW WB CHIEF AS ADHIR QUITS

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had resigned as the president of the West Bengal Congress Committee after the Lok Sabha polls and the process to appoint a new chief of the state unit is on, AICC general secretary in-charge of the state Ghulam Ahmad Mir said

His remarks came a day after Congress General Secretary, Organisation, KC Venugopal, held a meeting with senior West Bengal party leaders, including Chowdhury, and discussed several issues, including ties with TMC.

"Process is on, we have met some leaders who have expressed their opinion on the available leadership who can run the party better. Process is on to elect a new PCC chief. *—PTI*

Rajasthan schools to now mark Art 370 abrogation

JAIPUR, 30 JULY

PHOTO: PTI

Rajasthan Education Department's academic calendar for new session in state government schools has sparked a political debate as it proposes to celebrate revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir on 5 August as 'Swarna Mukut Mastak Diwas' and birthday of Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar on 28 May.

Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted special status and autonomy to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated in 2019.

Congress state President Govind Singh Dotasra criticised BJP-led state government's decision, terming it as a "shameless" move to serve political interests.

"Congress opposes this politicisation of education and imposing its divisive ideology on students," Dotasra said. The secondary education department calendar, Shivira Panchang, was released on Sunday.

Earlier, the primary school education department had published its annual calendar on 9 July, incorporating the celebration of the Ram temple consecration.

He had alleged that Savarkar's role in the freedom struggle was wrongly written in history. *—PTI*

SC stays HC order granting divorce to chef Kunal

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Supreme Court has stayed a Delhi High Court order granting divorce to celebrity chef Kunal Kapur on the ground of cruelty meted out to him by his estranged wife. Issuing a notice to Kapur on a plea filed by his wife, a bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti referred the case to Supreme Court Mediation Centre for exploring the possibility of settlement. High Court had granted divorce to Kapur, saying the woman's conduct towards him was devoid of dignity and empathy. It had allowed Kapur's appeal challenging a family court's order denying him divorce and said it is a settled position of law that making reckless, defamatory, humiliating and unsubstantiated allegations against a spouse in public amounts to cruelty. The estranged couple got married in April 2008 and a son was born to them in 2012. In his plea, Kapur, who was a judge in television show "MasterChef India", had accused his wife of never respecting his parents and humiliating him.—*PTI*

SC junks Bishnoi's plea against formation of SIT

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Supreme Court on Tuesday junked a plea by jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi against Punjab and Haryana High Court order to form a special investigation team and register FIRs over his interview with a TV channel while in jail. A bench of Justice Bela M Trivedi and Justice S C Sharma said it was not inclined to interfere with the high court order. The counsel for the gangster submitted that he was not heard before passing the order. He said multiple witnesses have been examined, but nothing has been found. The apex court asked the gangster to approach the high court. In December last year, the high court had ordered the registration of FIRs and probe by into the interview of Bishnoi. —*PTI*

Railways denies duty request for pregnant pilots

JAIPUR, 30 JULY

The Railway Board has referred to the provisions of several leave facilities for expectant female loco pilots in response to their demand for light duties during pregnancy. Several female loco pilots had approached the railway trade union to raise this issue after suffering suffering miscarriages due to challenging job roles. In a written communication sent to all zones on 25 July, 2024, the board said, "It is observed that several provisions of leave are already provided in rules for pregnant female employees which can be availed by the expectant female employees." The matter came up during a discussion between the Railway Board and the trade union All India Railwaymen's Federation in the Permanent Negotiating Machinery (PNM) meeting held on 2 and 3 May. —*PTI*

6-year-old girl's beheaded corpse found in UP rly stn

BAREILLY, 30 JULY

beheaded body of a six-year-old girl was found near Pitambarpur Railway Station here, police said on Tuesday. Assistant Superintendent of Police, South, Manush Pareekh ruled out murder angle in the incident. It appears the girl was either hit by a train or attacked by some wild animal, which dragged the body due to which the victim's head got separated from her body, he said. The body appears to be seven to eight days old and is yet to be identified, ASP Pareek said. The cause of death would be ascertained in the postmortem and meanwhile, the police is probing the matter from all possible angles, he added. —*PTI*

Landslides in the hilly areas near Meppadi, in Wayanad district, Kerala on Tuesday, Vehicles stuck in debris after huge landslide at Chooralmala; Rescue operation underway following landslides *PHOTO: PTI*

Landslide survivors recall horror

Survivors fled homes after noticing muddy water flowing through their area

WAYANAD, 30 JULY

As intense rescue efforts continue to save those trapped by the devastating landslide that hit the hilly Wayanad district of Kerala, survivors recount the harrowing experiences of their narrow escape just moments before the tragedy.

An elderly couple in Wayanad's landslide-hit area recounted their desperate bid for safety as the disaster struck in the dead of night. The couple, whose house was destroyed in the landslide, fled their home at 11pm after noticing muddy water flowing through their area. They sought refuge on a nearby hill, but not before trying to save their neighbour, who, according to them, tragically refused to join them.

He added that they were waiting at the hilltop until morning and when they came back, the whole area was washed away.

Another woman was seen sobbing in front of the media, saying her relative called her and said they were running from their home carrying their toddler. That family is yet to be traced.

People search for loved ones

Bodies were kept in a row on the floor of a tiny, congested hospital building in the district, where wailing people were seen desperately searching to find loved ones. The disturbing scenes were from a local community health centre, which could otherwise accommodate only a few people, in Meppadi village here, which was hit by massive landslides. Some people broke down at the shock of seeing the cold and injured bodies of their loved ones, while others heaved a sigh of relief that their kin were not among the deceased.

A teary-eyed young woman said five members of her family, including two children, went missing after the landslides. She said she came to the hospital to find out whether they were admitted there after being rescued by someone.

"I don't know where to go or where to search. Our two children are also missing. What will we do?" she said.

A man was seen struggling to hold back tears as his brother was found among the dead.

A local anganwadi worker said she was searching for a four-member family, including a 12-year-old girl. Aboobakar, a physically-challenged person, was also seen moving through the crowded hospital rooms in search of his missing brother and his family. Expertly-trained dogs from the Army's elite canine unit of breeds such as Belgian Malinois, Labradors, and German Shepherds, which can smell human remains and even the faintest of breath buried deep under mud, are on their way to the landslide-ravaged areas.

People make frantic phone calls seeking help

WAYANAD, 30 JULY

Frantic phone calls were made by people desperately pleading for help after being trapped under destroyed houses and piles of debris as landslides rocked the high-range hamlets of Kerala's Wayanad district in the early hours of Tuesday.

In one such conversation, a woman, apparently a native of Chooralmala town, was heard crying aloud, saying that someone in her house was trapped under the marsh and debris and could not be pulled out.

A man, another native of Chooralmala, said during a phone conversations that the place was still trembling and they didn't know what to do.

Another man, in a phone call, alerted that a large number of people were trapped under mud and battling for life in Mundakkai.

"If someone can come here by vehicle from the Meppadi area, we can save the lives of hundreds of people," he said.

An elderly man with injuries told a television channel that his wife was missing and he did not know where she was.

"We were sleeping in the house. Suddenly, a loud noise was heard, and huge boulders and trees were seen suddenly falling down on the roof of our house. Flood water entered the premises, destroying the shutters in front of the house," he said. —*PTI*

FOOTBRIDGE WASHED AWAY IN FLASH FLOOD IN KULLU

SHIMLA, 30 JULY

A footbridge and three makeshift sheds, including a liquor shop, were washed away following a flash flood triggered by a cloudburst in Tosh Nallah in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district, officials said on Tuesday.

The incident took place in the Tosh area of Manikaran early in the morning and no loss of life was reported, Deputy Commissioner Kullu Torul S Raveesh said, adding that a team has been sent to the spot to assess the situation.

The local meteorological office has issued an 'orange' alert for heavy to very heavy rain accompanied with thunderstorms and lightning in seven districts of the state on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Met has also sounded a 'yellow' alert for heavy rain at isolated places on 2 and 3 August.

—*PTI*

2 killed, 22 hurt as Howrah to Mumbai train derails in J'khand

JAMSHEDPUR/RANCHI/ CHAIBASA/KOLKATA, 30 JULY

Two people were killed and 22 others injured after at least 18 coaches of the Howrah-Mumbai Mail derailed in Jharkhand's Seraikela-Kharsawan district early on Tuesday.

The accident occurred at 3.45am near Barabamboo, around 80 km from Jamshedpur, under the Chakradharpur Division of South Eastern Railway (SER).

SER spokesperson Om Prakash Charan said there was another derailment of a goods train nearby, but it was not yet clear whether the two accidents occurred simultaneously.

The official said the "Howrah-Mumbai train hit the stationary goods train".

The accident site is near the border between West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts.

"The accident will be probed by a team, headed by Commissioner, Safety, Railways ", Aditya Kumar Choudhary, Senior DCM, Chakradharpur, SER told PTI.

Rescue work underway after the Howrah-Mumbai Mail derailed, in Seraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand on Tuesday *PHOTO: PTI*

"The railways announced Rs 10 lakh ex gratia for kin of each deceased, Rs 5 lakh for those with major injuries, Rs 1 lakh for those with minor injuries, the Senior DCM, Chakradharpur, told PTI.

The SER cancelled a few express and passenger trains owing to the accident. These are the 22861 Howrah-Titlagarh-Kantabanji Express, 08015/18019 Kharagpur-Jhargram-Dhanbad Express, 12021/12022 Howrah-Barbil-Howrah Jan Shatabdi Express, 18109 Tatanagar-Itwari Express and 18030 Shalimar-LTT Express.

Helpline numbers for Howrah are 9433357920 and 033-26382217, Shalimar (7595074427 and 6295531471) and Kharagpur (03222-293764), the SER said. —*PTI*

The entire responsibility for this (train accident) lies with your Railway Minister and the central government. Stop the Railway Minister from making reels and request him to focus on railways

-JMM

This series of nightmares almost every week, this unending procession of deaths on rly tracks: for how long shall we tolerate this? Will there be no end to the callousness of Govt of India?

-Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal CM

Since June the Fail Minister has overseen three accidents that have cumulatively cost 17 lives but there is "no accountability" in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new India

-Jairam Ramesh, Cong leader

'HOW MANY YEARS?'

SC raps Centre over OROP dues to ex-Army captains

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Supreme Court came down heavily on the Centre on Tuesday for failing to take any decision for years on the pension payable to retired regular captains of the Army in accordance with the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme and imposed a fine of Rs 2 lakh on it.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and R Mahadevan gave one last opportunity to the Centre till November 14 for resolving the anomalies with regard to the pension of such retired officers under the scheme.

It said the cost of Rs 2 lakh shall be deposited in the welfare funds of the Army and warned the government that if the decision is not taken by 14 November, it will direct for enhanced pension by 10 per cent to the retired regular captains.

It listed the matter for further hearing on November 25.

The root of the dispute lies in the OROP scheme introduced by the Centre in 2015. Under the scheme, the rate of pensions for past retirees were fixed at par with that for the current retirees of the armed forces.

However, certain anomalies crept in the pension tables for captains and majors for the lack of proper data of the officers in the ranks of regular captains and majors since the minimum current rank of retirement to attain pension-able service is lieutenant colonel.

PHOTO: PTI

- Supreme Court came down heavily on the Centre on Tuesday for failing to take any decision for years on the pension payable to retired regular captains of the Army in accordance with the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme and imposed a fine of Rs 2 lakh on it.

The Ministry of Defence appointed a One Man Judicial Committee (OMJC) to recommend the resolution of this anomaly in 2016 but no decision was taken by the ministry on the matter after that.

Subsequently, the Kochi Bench of the AFT directed the ministry to resolve the anomaly based on the OMJC's recommendations in a time-bound manner.

However, the Centre challenged the AFT order in the Supreme Court. —*PTI*

State bars cannot charge high fees for enrolling lawyers: SC

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

State bar councils cannot charge exorbitant fees for enrolling law graduates as lawyers as it perpetuates 'systemic discrimination' against marginalised and economically weaker sections, Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday.

Stating that 'dignity is crucial to substantive equality', the bench observed that state bar councils (SBCs) and Bar Council of India (BCI) cannot "alter or modify" the fiscal policy laid down by Parliament.

They are users of delegated powers under the Advocates Act, 1961, a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said, specifying that they cannot charge more than Rs 650 and Rs 125 for enrolling law graduates from the general and SC-ST categories, respectively.

The verdict came on 10 pleas filed by some lawyers.

It was alleged that the enrolment fee is Rs 42,100 in Odisha, Rs 25,000 in Gujarat, Rs 23,650 in Uttarakhand, Rs 21,460 in Jharkhand and Rs 20,050 in Kerala in comparison to the fees of Rs 650 and Rs 125 provided under Section 24 of the Advocates Act. —*PTI*

Man held from K'taka for murder of Mumbai woman

THANE, 30 JULY

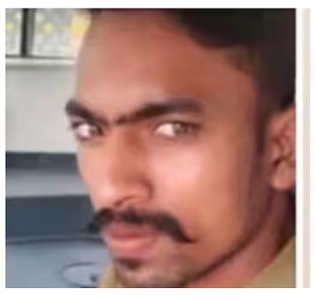
Two days after the body of a 20-year-old woman was found near Uran railway station in Navi Mumbai, the police have arrested a man from Karnataka for allegedly killing her, a senior official said.

The accused, Dawood Shaikh, was apprehended from the Shahapur area of Gulbarga in neighbouring Karnataka, a deputy commissioner of police said.

Talking to reporters, Additional Police Commissioner (Crime) Deepak Sakore said the victim and Shaikh had been in touch with each other and had met on the day of the murder.

A heated argument between the two may have led to the killing, but the exact motive behind the crime is not yet clear, and a probe is on, he said.

The woman's body was found around 2am on Saturday after her parents filed a missing persons report on 25 July.



Dawood Shaikh *PHOTO: X*

According to police, the victim, who worked in Belapur, had taken a half-day leave.

A case under section 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered against an unidentified person, and eight teams were formed to trace the accused, they said.

Sakore said Shaikh had lived in Uran for some time but went to Karnataka after the victim's father lodged a police complaint against him, and a POCSO case was registered in 2019. —*PTI*

'ADDRESS GRIEVANCES'

SC asks Ayush Ministry to set up complaint dashboard

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Ministry of Ayush should set up a dashboard so that details about complaints filed on misleading advertisements and progress made on them can be made available to the consumers.

The apex court had earlier highlighted the aspect of misleading advertisements being published or displayed in media contrary to the provisions of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and the rules, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

A bench of Justice Hima Kohli and Justice Sandeep Mehta was hearing a plea filed by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) alleging a smear campaign by Patanjali Ayurved Ltd against the Covid vaccination drive and modern systems of medicine.

PHOTO: PTI

The bench noted that the lack of proper data regarding action taken on the complaints received leaves the consumers helpless and in the dark.

It added that the data can also help in addressing the issue of prosecution under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

The top court was informed that in several states, a number of complaints regarding misleading advertisements were forwarded to other states as the firms manufacturing those products were based there.

The bench noted that the number of complaints made by the consumers, which was over 2,500 earlier, has gone down to only around 130 and the main reason appears to be that the grievance redressal mechanism for dealing with such complaints has not been properly publicised.

It asked the Ministry concerned to look into this issue and file an affidavit within two weeks.

The apex court bench also dealt with the aspect concerning manufacturing licences of 14 products of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd and Divya Pharmacy. —*PTI*

SOMNATH EXPRESS HALTED IN PUNJAB AFTER BOMB THREAT

FEROZEPUR, 30 JULY

Ferozepur, 30 July

The Somnath Express, which runs between Jammu and Rajasthan, was halted at a railway station in Punjab's Ferozepur district on Tuesday after police received an anonymous call claiming a bomb had been planted on the train, officials said. All passengers were evacuated at Kasu Begu railway station, they said. The Somnath Express runs between Jammu Tawi in Jammu and Kashmir and Bhagat Ki Kothi in Rajasthan. The police control room received a call claiming there was a bomb on the Somnath Express. Soon after, the train was halted at Kasu Begu railway station, around 10 km from Ferozepur, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Saumya Mishra said.

The area has been cordoned off and passengers have been evacuated, she said. —*PTI*

INDIA WINS SILVER IN EGOI

A 17-year-old schoolgirl Aanya Goyal from London has won a silver medal for Team India in the European Girls' Olympiad in Informatics (EGOI) in the Netherlands, where the Indian squad registered its best-ever performance with 2 bronze medals and one honourable mention

PHOTO: PTI

Bangladesh protest victims face a dark future

The NIOH has treated nearly 500 patients in the last few days, hailing from various districts including Dhaka, all grappling with severe eye injuries

PHOTO: ANI

Within the sterile walls of the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital (NIOH) in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, a sombre scene unfolds.

Dozens of young men, their faces etched with worry and uncertainty, sit in silent anticipation. Some shield their injured eyes behind dark sunglasses. Others wear white bandages on one or both eyes.

One question hangs in the air: Will these men ever see the world clearly again?

They are victims of pellet injuries — both survivors and reminders of the deadly clashes between protesters seeking job quota reforms and the security forces of Bangladesh that engulfed the nation of 170 million people for nearly two weeks this month. Among them is Mohammad Anik, a 24-year-old salesperson from Madaripur – a central district some 150km (93 miles) away from Dhaka. "There is a less than 50 percent chance that he [Anik] will get his eyesight back," said a duty doctor at NIOH who requested anonymity. "There were several injuries in his two eyes and we had tried our best." Last Monday, Anik was heading home from work when he got caught in a street clash between protesters and police. Before he could figure out what was happening, a pellet struck his face. He fell to the ground, unconscious and exposed, until bystanders intervened and took him to the hospital. Now, he finds himself amid the dozens of young men at NIOH, their futures shrouded in darkness.

Hundreds of patients of pellet guns injury

The NIOH has treated nearly 500 patients in the last few days, hailing from various districts including Dhaka, all grappling with severe eye injuries. Hospital records reveal that at least 278 of these individuals also sustained wounds to other parts of their bodies.

Mohammad Shamim, a 10-year-old who worked at a motorcycle workshop, sustained pellet injuries to both eyes during a clash between police and protesters last Friday in the Mirpur area of the capital. Doctors have said he will never fully recover his vision. "My son's future looks grim. What am I going to do with him?" lamented his father, Mohammad Idris.

NIOH's director, Golam Mostafa, confirmed that shotgun pellets used during the anti-quota protests were the primary cause of the injuries.

"In cases where the pellet embeds itself in the retina's centre or is forcefully ejected upon impact, partial blindness becomes the tragic outcome," he said. Researchers who looked at pellet injuries to protesters in Indian-administered Kashmir have previously found [PDF] that when fired at close range, the pellets lack sufficient time to disperse, resulting in a concentrated cluster that moves at incredibly high speeds. This concentrated force transforms the pellets into projectiles akin to handgun bullets, capable of piercing deep into soft tissues, particularly the eyes, causing extensive and irreversible damage. The devastating impact of pellet guns on eyesight hinges on the velocity and distance at which the pellets are fired, the study explained. The severity of these injuries has prompted international condemnation, with Amnesty International calling for a ban on their use for crowd control in Indian-administered Kashmir a few years ago.

Violation of UN-issued guidance

The United Nations has warned against using metal pellets, like those expelled from shotguns, in law enforcement, arguing that they are inherently inaccurate and often violate the principles of necessity and proportionality.

Bangladeshi police and security forces however have resorted to using 12-gauge pump-action shotguns loaded with cartridges containing these very metal pellets, a number of security analysts told Al Jazeera after analysing several photos and footage.

Al Jazeera telephoned and sent text messages to Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and several top officials from the police forces but received no response. Salim Mahmud, secretary of information and research of the ruling Awami League party, told Al Jazeera that he had to "check with the police and paramilitary forces" whether "any lethal weapon" was used against the protesters. Meanwhile, the US-based Human Rights Watch has accused Bangladesh's security forces of using excessive force during the protests.

Their findings reveal the use of live ammunition, tear gas, stun grenades, rubber bullets, and shotgun pellets to disperse demonstrators. Amnesty International has also raised similar concerns. Those who sustained eye injuries during the recent anti-quota protests, along with their families, claim that the police used indiscriminate force, firing at them without restraint. Rakibul Ahsan from the southern district of Barisal was part of the protests. A fourth-year statistics student at BM College, Ahsan was on the streets with his classmates last Tuesday when he was shot in both eyes. Doctors have not assured him of a full recovery. "We were protesting for a legitimate cause and were shot at for it. There is no justice here," Ahsan lamented. Sumon Mia, a mason from Madaripur who shared a hospital ward with salesman Anik, was also struck by a pellet in his right eye.

But unlike Ahsan, and like Anik, he was not involved in the agitation against the government — he was simply heading home from work. Despite a surgery, doctors couldn't save that eye — his vision is lost.

—Courtesy, Al Jazeera

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

SALAR سالار

To win Prez polls, Kamala must beat 'California curse'

Within the next fortnight, subject to a virtual "roll-call of Democratic Party delegates", vice president Kamala Harris will be confirmed as the presumptive Democrat candidate for the US presidency and will engage in a full-on battle for the White House with the Republican candidate, Donald Trump.

Harris will be crashing through many glass ceilings if she makes it to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue North West – or, as it is better known, the White House. She would be the first woman president, and also a woman of colour with both Indian and Jamaican heritage. But she would also be the first Democrat to win an election from a political powerbase in California.

In the exceptional republic that is the US of A, California is truly exceptional – and that grates with much of the rest of the country. It, and the people who hail from it, are too big, too rich, too inventive, too liberal – and altogether just too much, if you are from anywhere else, that is.

If California was a nation, it would have the world's fifth largest economy. It contributes around 15 per cent of US GDP, way out of proportion to other states, and is home to tech giants including Apple, Meta and Google, alongside major corporations such as Visa, Chevron and Wells Fargo. And just down from Silicon Valley you'll find the Hollywood Hills, home to the myth and mystery of the movie business.

Hollywood has given us such California politicians as former governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Clint Eastwood – mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea – and a one Ronald Wilson Reagan, who made the political journey from Democrat to conservative Republican. But more on him later.

For the US heartland, California feels like a separate country. Somehow, being far west has turned it – and particularly its Democrat politicians – far left in the minds of those Midwesterners, and there is almost no history of significant runs for the presidency for politicians who've cut their teeth in its capital, Sacramento.

Barring Harris' own halting run in 2020, you have to look back to 1992 for the last serious Californian tilt at the presidency.

This was when the then governor, Jerry Brown, made his final run, offering a serious challenge to Bill Clinton before choosing Rev Jesse Jackson as his vice-presidential pick, something that a small-c conservative country was just not ready for. And before Brown? Pretty much zilch.

Feinstein, who died last year, made her name as mayor of San Francisco and served in the Senate for more than 30 years. Her decline – and refusal to retire – has more than a few echoes, not with Harris, but with Joe Biden.

And if Harris needs further inspiration of a successful woman in Washington, she need look no further than Nancy Pelosi as the first female speaker of the House and, until her retirement from the speakership, one of the key leaders in legislative government.

Across the aisle

The reality is, of course that California has produced a raft of successful politicians at the highest level – but to date, they have been men, and they have been Republican. Midwesterners don't actually mind Californians – as long as they're conservative Californians.

While John Fremont came close in 1856, just six years after California entered the Union, the first Republican president from the state was Herbert Hoover in 1928. He swept the country other than the Dixie South and New York, campaigning to maintain US prosperity.

The Wall Street crash and the Depression put paid to a Hoover second term and while the Republicans won the presidency back under Eisenhower in 1952, the most prominent Californian appointment of the 1950s was Earl Warren as chief justice of the US Supreme Court.

He presided over a reforming Court, most especially around civil rights.

Next up to bat for the presidency was former vice-president Richard Nixon, who benefited from the chaos among the Democrats in 1968 following LBJ's decision not to run, to beat the incumbent Democratic vice-president Hubert Humphrey – surely a lesson for Harris. Finally, Kamala Harris could look to Reagan – former actor, former labour leader, former governor and a failed candidate in 1976 – for inspiration.

In 1980 he won the presidency on the back of deep economic malaise, but by 1984 his mix of old-time folksiness mixed with steely determination made him unstoppable. For a generation it definitely was "Morning again in America", as his campaign slogan ran.

—Courtesy, The Conversation

Kamala Harris is the Democrat candidate for the US presidency and will engage in a full-on battle for the White House

PHOTO: PTI

Meet the Indian athletes with 2 medals in Olympics

After Wrestler Sushil Kumar and Shutler PV Sindhu, shooter Manu Bhaker creates a record of clinching two medal in single edition of games

PHOTOS: @WRESTLERSUSHIL/ANI/@REALMANUBHAKER

With young shooter Manu Bhaker becoming the first Indian in post independence era to win two medals in a single edition of Olympics, here is a look at the Indian athletes who have won two individual medals in the global showpiece, albeit in different years.

- Manu Bhaker will have a chance to win another medal in this edition when she competes in the women's 25m air pistol event whose qualification round will be held on 2 August

Sushil Kumar

Wrestler Sushil Kumar is India's first two-time Olympic medallist in an individual event. It was his bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics which put Indian wrestling on the world map as more and more grapplers picked up the sport since then. He bettered his own achievement, securing a first-ever wrestling silver medal at the 2012 London Olympics.

However, his fall from grace was tragic as he was found involved in the murder of junior wrestler Sagar Dhankar in 2021 and continues to serve his jail-term in Delhi's Tihar Jail.

PV Sindhu

One of India's greatest athletes, PV Sindhu became the first shuttler from the country to win a silver medal at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. The Hyderabadi then claimed a bronze at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago to emerge as the second Indian to win two Olympic medals, joining Sushil in achieving the feat.

Sindhu, a 2019 world champion, is now chasing the unprecedented feat of becoming the only Indian athlete to win three Olympic medals as she competes in women's singles competition at the French capital.

Manu Bhaker

At the Paris Games, Bhaker not only joined Sindhu and Sushil as the third Indian to win two medals but she also achieved the unique feat of attainting it in the same edition of an Olympics.

Bhaker showed nerves of steel as she along with Sarabjot Singh, secured a team bronze medal in 10m air pistol competition on Tuesday. It was her second medal at the quadrennial showpiece after claiming a bronze in the women's 10m air pistol at the same venue on Sunday.

—PTI

China reports 7 more deaths from torrential rains

BEIJING, 30 JULY

Torrential rains have left at least seven people dead and three others missing in southeastern China, state media said on Tuesday, raising the death toll from a tropical storm to 22. All the deaths have been in Hunan province. Heavy rains have been falling on eastern Hunan for days as Tropical Storm Gaemi moved inland after making landfall at typhoon strength in neighbouring Fujian province on the Chinese coast. Four deaths and three missing people were reported in four villages in Zixing city, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The rain has damaged hundreds of homes in the city and prompted the evacuation of more than 11,000 people, Xinhua said. The bodies of three other missing people were found in a village in a nearby city, state broadcaster CCTV said in an online report. They were victims of a sudden mudslide caused by the rain. *—AP*

Imran approaches ATC, seeks bail in 12 terrorism cases

LAHORE, 30 JULY

Jailed former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan has approached an Anti-Terrorism Court here seeking bail in 12 cases linked to last year's 9 May riots, a media report said on Tuesday. The 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician's legal team, led by lawyer Salman Safdar, has filed the petitions, the Express Tribune reported on Tuesday. Khan, who is currently on judicial remand in all the cases, claims that there is no recovery to be made from him. He argues that the cases are based on malice and are a form of political retaliation against him. The petitions request the court to grant post-arrest bail in these cases.*—PTI*

Greece imposes restrictions to tackle 'goat plague'

ATHENS, 30 JULY

Greece has banned the transportation of sheep and goats across the country to try to contain a highly contagious infection known as "goat plague". "The movement of sheep and goats for breeding, fattening and slaughter is banned throughout Greece," the agriculture ministry said. It said new infection cases had been detected in the central Larissa region and in Corinth in the south. The virus, also known as Peste des Petits Ruminants, can kill between 80 per cent and 100 per cent of infected animals. It does not affect humans. In a statement, the Greek agriculture ministry said the ban had been introduced "with the aim of limiting the spread and eradication of the disease". *—BBC News*

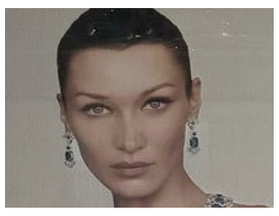


PHOTO: X/@BELLAHADIDBRA

Bella Hadid shocked, upset over Adidas campaign

WASHINGTON, 30 JULY

US model Bella Hadid has spoken out after starring in an Adidas campaign which was criticised for what the brand called "unintentional" connections to the 1972 Munich Olympics. Hadid, who is half Palestinian, said: "I am shocked, I am upset, and I am disappointed in the lack of sensitivity that went into this campaign." The advertising campaign for the retro trainers - the SL72s - referenced the 1972 Munich Olympics, which saw 11 Israeli athletes and a German police officer killed in the attack by a Palestinian group called Black September. Adidas subsequently apologised and said it would "revise" its campaign, confirming to AFP that Hadid had been removed from it. Hadid, 27, has been a vocal supporter of Palestinians and earlier this year donated money to support relief efforts for the war in Gaza.*—BBC News*

Venezuela burns in protest after poll results

Venezuela snaps ties with 7 nations over poll rigging claims

CARACAS, 30 JULY

Security forces in Venezuela have fired tear gas and rubber bullets at people protesting Sunday's disputed election result.

Thousands of people descended on central Caracas on Monday evening, some walking for miles from slums on the mountains surrounding the city, towards the presidential palace.

Protests erupted in the Venezuelan capital the day after President Nicolás Maduro claimed victory.

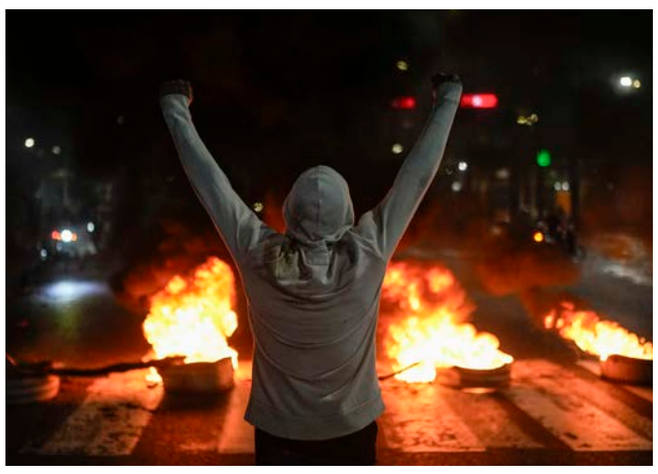
The opposition has disputed Maduro's declaration as fraudulent, saying its candidate Edmundo González won convincingly with 73.2 per cent of the vote. Opinion polls ahead of the election suggested a clear victory for the challenger.

Opposition parties had united behind González in an attempt to unseat President Maduro after 11 years in power, amid widespread discontent over the country's economic crisis.

A heavy military and police presence was on the streets of Caracas with the aim of trying to disperse protesters and prevent them from approaching the presidential palace.

Crowds of people chanted "freedom, freedom!" and called for the government to fall. Footage showed tyres burning on highways and large numbers of people on the streets, with police on motorbikes firing tear gas.

In some areas, posters of President Maduro were ripped down and burned while tyres, cars and rubbish were also set alight. Armed police, military and left-wing paramilitaries who are sympathetic to the government clashed with protesters and blocked off many roads around the city centre.



Protesters clash with the Bolivarian National Guard over the results of the presidential elections in Caracas, Venezuela *PHOTO: PTI*

In a speech on Venezuelan state television, Maduro said it is his "obligation to tell you the truth". "We are all under the obligation to listen the truth, to gear up with patience, calmness and strength because we are familiar with this movie and we know how to face these situations and how to defeat the violent."

BBC spoke to a number of people who attended one protest in a densely-populated area known as La Lucha, meaning "the fight".

—BBC News

Musk calls Maduro a 'dictator'

WASHINGTON, 30 JULY

Add Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to the growing list of foreign leaders with whom tech billionaire Elon Musk has picked a fight. Following the results of Venezuela's presidential election, in which Maduro and his opponents each claimed victory, the owner of X took to the social media platform to accuse the self-proclaimed socialist leader of "major election fraud." "Shame on Dictator Maduro," Musk said Monday. Maduro in turn trashed Musk as "the archenemy of Venezuela's peace."

—PTI

Reportedly, 200 people were killed in the violence *PHOTO: BBC NEWS*

Videos reveal brutality during B'desh protests

DHAKA, 30 JULY

An image is worth a thousand words – sometimes, it can even stir a nation.

In Bangladesh, it was the image of university student Abu Sayeed standing with open arms, stick in hand, facing heavily-armed police alone which many credit as the turning point in the recent widespread protest in the country against quotas in government jobs.

Within seconds, as the video shows, the young man was shot at – but still he continues to stand, even as the sounds of more shots ring out. He collapses a few minutes later.

The 16 July incident quickly went viral, triggering more students to jump into the agitation against reservations in civil service jobs for the family members of the veterans of the country's independence war in 1971.

What followed were days of unrest, marked by an unprecedented ferocity of violence. Bangladesh security agencies are accused of a disproportionate use of force - firing tear gas, rubber bullets, pellet guns, sound grenades and live rounds - a charge they deny. A curfew was eventually brought in, with a shoot-on-sight order.

Reportedly, 200 people were killed in the violence, including several students and three police officers. Official government statistics stand at 147, according to the home minister.

The Bangladesh government on Tuesday decided to ban the Jamaat-e-Islami following the deadly nationwide students' protests. he government would thoroughly examine legal aspects before banning Jamaat-Shibir to block any possible legal loophol.

—BBC News

US boosting alliance with Philippines amid China row

MANILA, 30 JULY

Washington's top diplomat and defence chief, in Manila for talks Tuesday, will announce USD 500 million in military funding to boost Philippine defences and progress in a proposed military pact, given that China's increasingly aggressive actions in the region "will not stop," a Philippine official said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin called on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, who has fortified Manila's decades-old treaty alliance with Washington as hostilities between Philippine and Chinese forces flared since last year in the disputed South China Sea. Marcos has underscored the need for a US military presence for Asian stability and peace.

After the most violent faceoff between Filipino and Chinese forces on 17 June in the Philippine-occupied Second Thomas Shoal, the countries announced an agreement last week on a temporary arrangement to prevent such clashes in the future.

The Philippines, however, would continue strengthening its territorial defence with the assistance of the US and other friendly military powers and build new security alliances, Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Manuel Romualdez said.

The USD 500 million in US military financing to be announced by Austin in Manila would include funding for various Philippine navy equipment. *—PTI*

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CIVIL RIGHTS

'US SC mired in crisis of ethics'

WASHINGTON, 30 JULY

President Joe Biden has said the US Supreme Court is mired in a "crisis of ethics", slamming its recent decisions on presidential immunity, as he raised serious questions on the integrity and independence of the American judiciary system.

Biden, 81, harshly criticised the apex court on Monday while delivering remarks at the 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act at the Lyndon B Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Texas.

"On top of its extreme decisions, the court is mired in a crisis of ethics," Biden said. He said the Supreme Court "most recently and most shockingly" established a "dangerous precedent" in the former president Donald Trump versus the United States case.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court ruled that former presidents have broad immunity from prosecution. It prolonged the delay in the criminal case against former president Trump on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss.

"Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of Presidential power entitles a former President to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority," the apex court had said in its judgement on 1 July.

"Undisclosed gifts to justice are worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from wealthy benefactors who have (an) interest before the very court they're contributing to. Conflict of interest from those connected to the 6 January insurrectionists and the blatant attack on nominating and confirming justices of the court itself," he said. *—PTI*

President Joe Biden steps off from Marine One upon his arrival to the White House in Washington, on Tuesday *PHOTO: PTI*

> **On top of its extreme decisions, the court is mired in a crisis of ethics**
>
> -Joe Biden, US President

Harris worse Prez candidate than Biden: Trump

WASHINGTON, 30 JULY

Former president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has called his likely Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, a "worse candidate" than President Joe Biden, who she replaced more than a week ago. "I think she (Harris) is the worst candidate than him (Biden). She is far more radical left," Trump told Fox News host Laura Ingraham in an interview on Monday, his first after Harris, 59, became the presumptive nominee of the Democratic Party. Harris officially declared her candidacy after incumbent President Biden withdrew from the race for a second term on 20 July. She is expected to be declared as the presidential candidate by the Democrats next month. *—PTI*

Harris will continue to be an inspiring leader: Biden

WASHINGTON, 30 JULY

Vice President Kamala Harris has been a champion of civil rights and will continue to be an inspiring leader, President Joe Biden has said

Biden made the remarks on Monday during his address at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Texas.

"I made clear how I feel about Kamala, and she's been an incredible partner to me, a champion of civil rights throughout her career, and she'll continue to be an inspiring leader and project this very idea of America, the very idea that we're all created equal and deserve to be treated equally throughout our lives," Biden said. "We've never fully lived up to that, but we've never walked away from it," he added. PTI

As many as 3,60,000 people have signed up to volunteer in support of Harris, her campaign has said, reflecting the groundswell of support in her favour in her race against Trump.

Harris is the presumptive presidential nominee of the Democratic Party. She officially declared her candidacy for president last week after Biden withdrew from the race for a second term.

—PTI

Kamala Harris *PHOTO: PTI*

FREE SPEECH WINS

Moroccan journalist Omar Radi walks with his mother after leaving prison in Tiflet, Morocco. Radi was released from jail after King Mohammed VI issued a pardon, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the 2021 sentence of the 38-year-old journalist to six years in prison on two charges related to 'sexual assault' and 'receiving foreign funds' with the intent to 'harm state security' *PHOTO: PTI*

SEEKING TIES WITH MOROCCO

France shifts Western Sahara stance

RABAT, 30 JULY

France has recognised Morocco's sovereignty over the disputed Western Sahara, shifting a decades-old position and adding itself to a growing list of countries to back Morocco as a United Nations-mediated peace process remains stalled.

In a letter to King Mohammed VI, France's President Emmanuel Macron called the autonomy plan that Morocco proposed in 2007 that "only basis" to solve the conflict, dealing a blow to the pro-independence Polisario Front, which has claimed to be the legitimate representive of the indigenous Saharawi people since the end of Spanish colonialisation.

"The present and future of Western Sahara fall within the framework of Moroccan sovereignty," Macron wrote in a letter made public on Tuesday. "France intends to act consistently with this position at both national and international level."

France's departure from its historic position is a major victory for Morocco and follows similar shifts from the United States, Israel, Spain and a growing list of African nations which which Morocco aims to deepen trade ties.

France's departure from its historic position is a major victory for Morocco *PHOTO: X*

- A high-ranking Moroccan official who spoke on the condition of anonymity called it "a game-changer" amid changing international shifting toward Morocco's position

A high-ranking Moroccan official who spoke on the condition of anonymity called it "a game-changer" amid changing international shifting toward Morocco's position. They noted France's role as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, which oversees the peacekeeping mission that has for decades mediated between Morocco and the Algeria-backed Polisario Front. *—AP*

Floodwater in Pak kills 13 people inside house

PESHAWAR, 30 JULY

At least 13 people of a family, including six children, were killed when flood waters entered the basement of their house amidst torrential rains in northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Tuesday, officials said.

The incident occurred in Darra Adam Khel Tehsil of Kohat district, 35 kilometres south of Peshawar.

The family was stuck in the basement of the house when it was flooded with rainy water, resulting in the death of six children, three women and two men, the provincial disaster management agency said.

The rescue teams rushed to the site and retrieved the bodies. The bodies were moved to the hospital in Kohat, rescue officials said.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Management Authority on Monday warned the monsoon currents from the Bay of Bengal were expected to enter the central and southern parts of Pakistan, bringing heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of the country's river systems, Dawn News reported.

In its advisory, the authority advised the at-risk population to avoid flood waters and find a safe location away from flood-prone areas. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X/@NWAEIPAKISTAN

Market rises for 3rd day on gains in Tata & HDFC

Sensex closed at its all-time high by 99.56 points at 81,455.40

NSE Nifty edged up 21.20 points to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,857.30 **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

MUMBAI, 30 JULY

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty eked out gains in volatile trade to settle at record high levels on Tuesday, extending their gaining streak to the third day on the back of buying in Tata Motors and HDFC Bank.

The 30-share BSE Sensex closed higher by 99.56 points or 0.12 per cent at 81,455.40 -- its all-time closing high -- with 16 of its components advancing and 14 ending lower. The index opened higher and jumped 459.43 points or 0.56 per cent to hit an intra-day high of 81,815.27.

- From the Sensex pack, Tata Motors, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid Corp, Titan, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank, Maruti Suzuki India and Tata Steel were among the biggest gainers

The NSE Nifty edged up 21.20 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 24,857.30. During the day, it surged 135.65 points.

Despite heavy volatility, the combined market valuation of all BSE-listed companies hit the USD 5.50-trillion milestone for the first time.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Motors, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, Power Grid Corp, Titan, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank, Maruti Suzuki India and Tata Steel were among the biggest gainers.

Sun Pharmaceuticals, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement and Reliance Industries were among the laggards.

On Monday, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed higher by 23.12 points or 0.03 per cent at 81,355.84, its all-time closing high. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PIXABAY

Gold jumps ₹550 to ₹71,600 per 10 grams

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Gold prices jumped by Rs 550 to Rs 71,600 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday following strong demand from jewellers and firm global trends. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 71,050 per 10 grams. Silver prices, on the other hand, remained flat at Rs 84,500 per kg on Tuesday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also bounced by Rs 550 to Rs 71,250 per 10 grams from the previous close of Rs 70,700 per 10 grams. Globally, Comex gold is trading higher at USD 2,432.90 per ounce, up by USD 7.40 per ounce from the previous close. Market experts said gold prices are stuck in a range ahead of policy meeting outcomes by the Bank of Japan and the US central bank. —*PTI*

Rupee edges up 1P to close at 83.72 against US dollar

MUMBAI, 30 JULY

The rupee appreciated 1 paisa to close at 83.72 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday amid a positive trend in domestic markets ahead of the US Fed policy announcement. The domestic currency was trading in a tight range of 83.72-83.74 throughout the session. At the interbank foreign exchange market, it opened flat at 83.73 and ended the day at 83.72 (provisional) against the US dollar, a gain of just one paisa. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was flat at 104.56. Brent crude futures -- the global oil benchmark -- dipped 0.08 per cent to USD 79.72 per barrel. —*PTI*

Adani to invest ₹600 cr in edible oil business

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Adani Wilmar Ltd plans to invest around Rs 600 crore this fiscal mainly to expand its processing capacities of edible oil business and will launch more food products for consumers as well as institutional buyers to achieve higher growth in volume terms, its MD & CEO Angshu Malick said on Tuesday. Adani Wilmar, an equal joint venture between Adani Group and Singapore's Wilmar, also said that promoters need to bring down their stakes in the company to 75 per cent by February next year from the current 88 per cent to meet SEBI's minimum public shareholding norm of 25 per cent. The current market cap is Rs 45,794 crore. Ahmedabad-based company is into edible oil, food & FMCG and industry essentials businesses. Adani Wilmar reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 313.20 crore for the first quarter against a loss of Rs 78.92 crore in 2023. —*PTI*

L&T inks pact with Valor to develop real estate projects

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Engineering and construction conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Tuesday said its wholly owned arm has entered into a pact with Valor Estate Ltd for development of a real-estate project in Mumbai. L&T Parel Project Pvt Ltd is into real estate development business. "L&T Parel Project Pvt Ltd... in the ordinary course of its business has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Valor Estate Limited to develop real estate project in Mumbai," L&T said in a filing to the BSE. Larsen & Toubro is a USD 27-billion Indian multinational engaged in engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) projects, hi-tech manufacturing and services, operating across multiple geographies. —*PTI*

Colgate, Palmolive stock hits 52-week high

Shares of Colgate-Palmolive India jumped more than 6 per cent on Tuesday after the company reported 33 per cent rise in net profit at Rs 363.98 crore for the first quarter ended June 2024. The stock of FMCG major climbed 6.19 per cent to trade at Rs 3,407.75 apiece on the BSE. Later, the scrip of the company rose 6.75 per cent to hit its 52-week high of Rs 3,425.90 per piece. Also, the company's market valuation jumped by Rs 5,895.29 crore to Rs 93,179.55 crore —*PTI*

SURVEY NOT GOVT'S REPORT

Minister: Govt's stand on Chinese FDI unchanged

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Piyush Goyal **PHOTO: PTI**

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said there has been no rethink on the government's stand on allowing Chinese investment and the views expressed in the Economic Survey do not represent government's views.

Replying to supplementaries in the Lok Sabha, Goyal said the government scrutinises Chinese investments and its stand in this regard has not changed. During the Question Hour, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi alleged that India has become dependent on China and quoted the Economic Survey, saying it supported getting foreign direct investment (FDI) from country.

Goyal hit back at the Congress, saying under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) rule, India had become dependent on neighbouring countries.

"Under the Congress, imports increased from USD 4 billion to USD 40-45 billion, which is more than 10 times. In our term, the increase is only 2-2.5 times. We took steps to make India self-reliant,"

"I am making a direct allegation against the UPA.... Their name has changed, it is now the INDI Alliance," he said.

Referring to the Economic Survey, Goyal said, "As far as the chief economic advisor is concerned, they bring an independent, autonomous report. It is their thought, the Government of India at present has not changed its stand."

As the United States and Europe are shifting their immediate sourcing away from China, it is more effective to have Chinese companies invest in India and then export the products to these markets rather than importing from the neighbouring country, the survey said.

India faces two choices to benefit from the "China-plus-one strategy" -- it can either integrate into China's supply chain or promote FDI from China. —*PTI*

BCCI, Byju's in talks to settle dispute

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

BCCI on Tuesday sought a day's adjournment at appellate insolvency tribunal NCLAT, saying talks are going on with Byju's, hinting at the possibility of a settlement.

When the hearing on the plea filed by Byju's promoter against insolvency proceedings started at The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta -- appearing for the cricket body -- informed the bench that "some talks" on.

Byju's Founder Byju Raveendran's plea was listed before a new bench comprising Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain and Jatindranath Swain.

The NCLAT was hearing a petition filed by Raveendran challenging the initiation of insolvency proceedings against Think & Learn, which runs the company Byju's.

Bengaluru bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on 16 July directed Corporate Insolvency Resolution Proceedings (CIRP), admitting the plea.

The BCCI had approached the NCLT under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) over a default of Rs 158.9 crore by Think & Learn -- once India's most valuable startup worth an estimated USD 22 billion. Raveendran challenged the NCLT order before the NCLAT. He has also approached the Karnataka High Court.

At the High Court, Raveendran challenged the validity of the order and sought the suspension of the NCLT order till the NCLAT hears the appeal. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X@BIINDIA

- The NCLAT was hearing a petition filed by Raveendran challenging the initiation of insolvency proceedings against Think & Learn, and adjourned the matter to Wednesday

PHOTO: PTI

PAYTM SEES NO IMPACT OF LOWER INCENTIVES IN UPI

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Fintech firm One97 Communications, which owns Paytm brand, sees no impact of lower incentives earmarked by the government in the budget for promoting small ticket digital transactions, a top official of the company said.

Speaking on the sidelines of launching "Card NFC Soundbox" machine, Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma denied any impact of lower allocation of incentives to promote small ticket digital transactions on his guidance over profitability this fiscal year.

The government has lowered incentive allocation for Rupay and UPI transactions by about 42 per cent in the budget.

Sharma during the company's earning call had given guidance to achieve a profitable quarter during the current fiscal. —*PTI*

Govt mops up ₹98K crore from taxing capital gains in equities

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

PHOTO: PIXABAY

The government has garnered Rs 98,681 crore from long term capital gains tax on listed equities in 2022-23, a 15 per cent growth over the previous year, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary gave details of collections from Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) tax between fiscal 2018-19 and 2022-23 in the Rajya Sabha.

The long term capital gains on equities and units of equity oriented mutual funds were brought in from April 2018. Such gains were taxed at 10 per cent, with gains of up to Rs 1 lakh annually being exempted.

As per the details shared with the Parliament, Rs 98,681.34 crore was collected from LTCG in 2022-23, up 15 per cent over Rs 86,075.49 crore collected in 2021-22 fiscal.

To a question on whether the government is contemplating to abolish the LTCG tax on equities/mutual funds during 2024-25, Chaudhary said, "There is no such proposal".

The Budget for 2024-25, announced on July 23, hiked LTCG tax on equities and equity oriented mutual funds to 12.5 per cent, from 10 per cent. The exemption threshold was also hiked to Rs 1.25 lakh, from Rs 1 lakh previously. —*PTI*

Tax payers urge govt to extend ITR deadline

KOLKATA, 30 JULY

The All-India Federation of Tax Practitioners (AIFTP) has requested the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to extend the deadline of filing Income Tax returns by a month to 31 August for the assessment year 2024-25. In a memorandum, AIFTP national president Narayan Jain and Direct Tax Representation Committee chairman SM Surana said floods in several states have severely impacted the process of filing returns. Landslides in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh have further compounded these difficulties, they added. The memorandum also claimed persistent problems with the Income Tax portal and software, including difficulties in downloading and verifying various forms. Additionally, they said the process of paying self-assessment tax through banks and downloading challans is time-consuming. —*PTI*

SEBI SPENDS ₹62 CR IN 5 YEARS ON INVESTORS' EDU, F&O TRADE RISKS

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Capital markets regulator SEBI has spent a little over Rs 62 crore in the last five years for investors' education activities, including for awareness of risks and volatility in the Futures & Options (F&O) segment, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. During FY 2023-24, SEBI spent Rs 2.73 crore from its Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF), Rs 11.93 crore in FY23, Rs 6.81 crore in FY22, Rs 28.84 crore in FY21 and Rs 11.84 crore in FY20, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said. Some of the key measures taken by SEBI are statutory warnings shown on broker trading screens with respect to risk of probable losses an investor could suffer while trading in the F&O segment. —*PTI*

India's gold demand dips 5% to 149.7 tonnes

MUMBAI, 30 JULY

India's gold demand declined 5 per cent to 149.7 tonnes during the June quarter, due to record high prices, the World Gold Council (WGC) said in a report on Tuesday.

The gold demand stood at 158.1 tonnes during the corresponding quarter of the previous calendar year, WGC's 'Q2 2024 Gold Demand Trends' report said.

However, in value terms, gold demand increased 17 per cent during the second quarter at Rs 93,850 crore, compared to Rs 82,530 crore in the same period of the previous year.

- The total jewellery demand in India declined 17 per cent to 106.5 tonnes during the quarter compared to 128.6 tonnes in the corresponding period of the last year

Prices during the April-June quarter soared, with the cost of 24-carat gold crossing Rs 74,000 per 10 grams.

The average price of gold during the April-June period in US dollar terms was USD 2,338.2, compared to USD 1,975.9 in the same period of 2023. The average quarterly price in rupee terms was Rs 62,700.5, compared to Rs 52,191.6 in the same period last year (excluding import duty and GST), WGC said.

Further, the report said the total jewellery demand in India declined 17 per cent to 106.5 tonnes during the quarter compared to 128.6 tonnes in the corresponding period of the last year.

Total investment demand increased 46 per cent in the second quarter at 43.1 tonnes in comparison to 29.5 tonnes in the same period of last year, said the report.

Total gold imports in India during the April-June quarter were 196.9 tonnes, which is 8 per cent more compared to 182.3 tonnes in 2023. —*PTI*

AHEAD OF MERGER WITH AI

Vistara offers voluntary retirement to staff

NEW DELHI, 30 JULY

Voluntary Retirement Scheme and Voluntary Separation Scheme have been offered for the non-flying employees **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS**

Vistara has offered voluntary retirement as well as voluntary separation schemes for its non-flying staff, ahead of the full service carrier's merger with Air India, according to officials.

A joint venture between the Tatas and Singapore Airlines, Vistara has around more than 6,500 employees, including permanent and contract staff.

The Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) have been offered for the non-flying permanent employees. Eligible staff can apply for the schemes till 23 August, they said.

While VRS is for those who have completed five years of service, VSS is for the staff who are yet to complete five-year service at the airline.

The schemes are similar to those offered by the Tata Group-owned Air India earlier this month.

The schemes are not be applicable for pilots, cabin crew and those holding licences for carrying out their duties.

There was no official comment from Vistara on the schemes. The airline started flying in 2015.

Earlier this month, sources had said about 600 non-flying staff of Air India and Vistara are likely to be impacted by the two airlines' mega-merger, and efforts will be made to provide job opportunities to the affected employees within Air India group and Tata companies.

Tata Group-owned loss-making full-service carriers -- Air India and Vistara -- together have more than 23,000 employees.

In June, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) cleared the merger, and in March, Singapore's competition regulator CCCS gave a conditional nod for the proposed deal.

Earlier in September 2023, the deal received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI), subject to certain conditions. —*PTI*

Tesla recalls 1.8M vehicles due to hood issue

WASHINGTON, 30 JULY

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Tesla is recalling more than 1.8 million vehicles because of a hood issue that could increase the risk of a crash.

Billionaire Elon Musk's Tesla is recalling some 2021-2024 Model 3, Model S, Model X, and 2020-2024 Model Y vehicles because the hood latch assembly may fail to detect an unlatched hood after it has been opened.

The unlatched hood can fully open when the vehicle is in motion, potentially obstructing the driver's view and increasing the likelihood of a crash. The company is unaware of any crashes, injuries or deaths related to the issue.

Tesla did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Tesla began investigating customer complaints about the issue on Model 3 and Model Y vehicles in China on 25 March. By mid-April, the automaker had identified the condition impacting vehicles in China as a latch switch deformation.

Tesla said that as of 20 July it has identified three warranty claims or field reports for US vehicles that are related to or may be related to the hood issue. Vehicle owners may also reach out to Tesla customer service at 1-877-798-3752 for more information. —*PTI*

HANDS IN POCKET, EYES LOCKED, SHOULDERS RELAXED & THEY DELIVERED

Bhaker becomes 1st Indian after Independence to win 2 medals in an Olympics game

CHATEAUROUX, 30 JULY

Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh won bronze in the 10m air pistol mixed team event, defeating Oh Ye Jin and Wonho Lee of South Korea 16-10 at the Paris Olympics on Tuesday.

The Indians started on the wrong foot with Sarabjot's opening shot fetching a poor 8.6, while Bhaker shot 10.2 for an aggregate of 18.8. The Koreans aggregated 20.5 to take the opening round and open a 2-0 lead.

In mixed team events, the pair that reaches 16 points first wins the medal. Down 0-2, Bhaker's consistency came to the fore and it rubbed off on Sarabjot as the pair took the next four rounds to take their tally to 8-2.

Such was her level of confidence that Bhaker had just three shots below 10 in the entire contest which lasted 13 rounds.

It was an uphill task for the Koreans who succumbed to pressure and could not match their rivals losing 16-10. Bhaker will next be seen in action in the 25m women's pistol qualification on August 2 and has a good chance of making the finals. Bhaker said, "Don't be angry if I can't add another one."

Medal contenders Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty notched up a dominating straight-game win against Indonesian duo of Muhammad Rian Ardianto and Fajar Alfian to top Group C in men's doubles badminton competition at the Paris Games here on Tuesday.

The third-seeded Indian duo beat their opponents 21-13 21-13 in the final Group C match that lasted just 38 minutes. —*PTI*

Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh **PHOTOS: PTI**

SHOT NUMBER	SCORE		TOTAL
	MANU BHAKER	SARABJOT SINGH	
1	10.2	8.6	18.8
2	10.7	10.5	21.2
3	10.4	10.4	20.8
4	10.7	10.0	20.7
5	10.5	9.6	20.1
6	10.0	10.2	20.2
7	10.6	9.4	20.0
8	8.3	10.2	18.5
9	10.0	10.5	20.5
10	10.5	10.3	20.8
11	9.6	9.7	19.3
12	10.6	10.2	20.8
13	9.4	10.2	19.6

The Indian shooters had 19 of their 26 shots hit at least a 10 while the South Koreans had 12 shots hit a minimum of 10. *Source: Olympics*

KEY EVENTS

SHOOTING TIME: 12.30 PM

50M RIFLE 3 POSITIONS MEN, QUALIFICATION

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, 23, Madhya Pradesh

bagged GOLD at the 2021 ISSF World Cup event in New Delhi with a score of 462.5 in men's 50-metre rifle three positions. He won the Arjuna Award in 2023

Swapnil Kusale, 28, Maharashtra

Won Gold in 59th National Shooting Championship and 61st National Championship in Thiruvananthapuram by winning a gold in 50m rifle 3 position.

TRAP WOMEN, QUALIFICATION DAY 2 | 12.30 PM

Shreyasi Singh, 32, New Delhi

Rajeshwari Kumari, 32, Delhi

BOXING TIME: 3:50 PM

WOMEN'S 75KG, PRELIMINARIES ROUND OF 16

Lovlina Borgohain, 26, Assam

won GOLD at the 2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships

MEN'S 71KG, PRELIMINARIES ROUND OF 16 TIME: 12:34 AM

Nishant Dev,23, Haryana

He won BRONZE in the 71 kg category at the IBA Men's World Boxing Championships

ARCHERY TIME: 3:56 PM

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL, 1/32 ELIMINATION ROUND

Deepika Kumari, 30, Jharkhand

13th triple GOLD and became the 11th archer to achieve the feat – in the 15-year history of the Archery World Cup.

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL, 1/32 ELIMINATION ROUND TIME: 9:28 PM

Tarundeep Rai, 40, Sikkim

Paris Olympics is his third Olympics, He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2021

EQUESTRIAN TIME: 1.30 PM

DRESSAGE INDIVIDUAL, GRAND PRIX DAY 2

Anush Agarwalla, 24, Kolkata

COUNTRIES				
1. Japan	7	2	4	14
2. China	6	6	2	14
3. France	5	8	4	17
4. Aus	5	4	0	9
31. India	0	0	2	2

PANWAR FINISHES 5TH

India's lone representative in rowing at the Paris Olympics, Balraj Panwar on Tuesday finished fifth in his quarterfinals heat race of the men's single sculls event and will now fight for minor positions. The 25-year-old clocked 7 minutes and 5.10 seconds in quarterfinals heat 4 to be relegated to semifinals C/D, meant for rowers to compete for positions 13th to 24th. Individual Neutral Athlete Yauheni Zalaty won the quarterfinals heat 4 with a time of 6:49.27, while Giedrius Bieliauskas (6:51.80) of Lithuania and Ryuta Arakawa (6:54.17) of Japan were second and third respectively. —*PTI*

HOCKEY WIN REKINDLES HOPES OF INDIANS

PARIS, 30 JULY

The Indian men's hockey team expectedly beat Ireland despite a few defense lapses to more or less secure its passage into the quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics, with skipper Harmanpreet scoring a brace in a 2-0 win in a Pool B match, here Tuesday.

Unlike the previous two matches, India penetrated the rival circle consistently and dictated play in the first half. It was expected, considering that Ireland were the easiest of the opponents in this pool.

India were, however, far from convincing in the second half, but the win has taken them to seven points from three matches while the defeat has ousted Ireland from the quarterfinal race. Belgium and Australia, both unbeaten, have six points each and they play against each other later in the day.

Most likely, Argentina and New Zealand will fight for the fourth spot in this Pool. The top four teams from each of the two pools qualify for the quarterfinals.

India earned their first penalty corner as early as the second minute of the match when Abhishek made a move from the left and passed the ball to Sukhjeet Singh. India custodian PR Sreejesh blocked the shot to keep India's 2-0 lead intact.

Continuing her fine form, teenage Indian archer Bhajan Kaur notched back-to-back victories in the women's individual event to advance to the pre-quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics here on Tuesday.

However, Prithviraj Tondaiman shot a perfect 25 in the last two rounds but finished 21st in the qualification round of men's trap shooting event here. —*PTI*

India's captain Harmanpreet Singh celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal during the match on Tuesday in France **PHOTO: PTI**

Indian badminton stalwart Ashwini Ponnappa **PHOTO: PTI**

THIS IS MY LAST OLYMPICS, SAYS PONNAPPA

PARIS, 30 JULY

Indian badminton stalwart Ashwini Ponnappa on Tuesday broke down in tears, announcing she has played her last Olympics after she and her partner Tanisha Crasto suffered their third straight loss in the women's doubles competition of the Paris Games.

Ashwini and Tanisha lost to Australia's Setyana Mapasa and Angela Yu 15-21 10-21 in their final Group C game on Tuesday. They ended their campaign after losing all their three group matches.

Jaismine lamboria lost the second round and finally got a 5-0 defeat for Jaismine. —*PTI*

Concerns over water quality in Seine River

PARIS, 30 JULY

Concerns about water quality in the Seine River led Paris Olympics organizers to postpone the men's triathlon Tuesday, with officials hoping the swimming portion of the race will be able to go forward in the long-polluted waterway in the coming days following an expensive cleanup effort.

The women's competition also is scheduled that day, but both will only go forward if water tests show acceptable levels of E. coli and other bacteria in the river. Friday is also planned as a backup date. Daily water quality tests measure levels of fecal bacteria known as E. coli, with a safe limit of 900 colony-forming units per 100 millilitres determined by European rules. Monitoring group Eau de Paris releases data each Friday, but it is updated only through the previous Tuesday.

Aurelie Merle, the Paris 2024 director of sports, said one of four test sites was below the threshold for E. coli Tuesday morning. Two other sites were just above the limit and one was more elevated, she said, citing a range of 980 to 1,553. High levels of E. coli in water can indicate contamination from sewage. —*AP*

Athletes of France wave flags as they ride in a boat along the Seine River **PHOTO: PTI**

High levels of air pollution at Paris

As a heatwave hits Paris, high temperatures are not the only health hazard facing athletes and spectators at the Olympic Games.

Hot, settled weather also creates favourable conditions for ground-level ozone, a type of air pollution harmful to humans and the environment.

It can particularly affect people with respiratory conditions including asthma.

High levels of ground-level ozone are forecast across much of Europe between now and 4 August, especially for the Paris region, according to the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service.

This could exceed limits set by European air quality legislation. —*BBC News*

Archery: S Korea tops the table to win 3rd gold

PARIS, 30 JULY

A fired-up home crowd couldn't push France past the South Korean juggernaut in the men's team archery final.

The first set finished with a score of 57-all, but South Korea took the second 59-58 and the third 59-56 to win 5-1 overall on Monday at Les Invalides. Kim Woo-jin, Kim Je-deok and Lee Woo-seok won the third straight team gold for South Korea.

French fans waved their flags feverishly throughout the final and brought the noise whenever one of their archers hit a 10. Even after things clearly were going South Korea's way in the third set, the French fans remained engaged.

Coco Gauff was left in tears after getting into an extended argument with the chair umpire over a ruling during the reigning US Open champion's 7-6 (7), 6-2 loss to Donna Vekic of Croatia in a Paris Olympics third-round singles match Tuesday.

Canada on track for Olympic knockout stage with win over Australia, Spain beat Greece —*AP*

Korean players **PHOTO: AP**

SL cabinet to ask for draft of new cricket constitution

COLOMBO, 30 JULY

The Sri Lankan cabinet has decided to instruct its legal draftsman to work on draft of new constitution for Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) based on recommendations by a committee of retired judges. 'The Chitrasiri Committee', as it was known, had proposed a structure where the SLC would be governed by an 18-member board of directors. The government intervention for a new structure came when the then sports minister Roshan Ranasinghe sacked the current SLC administration and replaced it with an interim committee. His decision led to Sri Lanka's ICC membership being suspended while the SLC lost its right to host the U-19 World Cup. The current SLC management election process is being severely criticised for excessive vote buying to ensure the continuity of same individuals at the helm of the richest sporting body. —*PTI*

TRESCOTHICK IS THE NEW FACE

LONDON, 30 JULY

Matthew Mott on Tuesday stepped down as England's white ball coach following their recent failure to defend the T20 World Cup title, and he has been replaced with former opener Marcus Trescothick on an interim basis.

England were knocked out of the ICC showpiece by eventual champions India in the semifinal, while the Three Lions were also unsuccessful in holding on to their 50-over World Cup trophy last year.

However, Mott's tenure began with England bagging their second T20 World Cup in 2022 in Australia, beating Pakistan in the final.

Rob Key, the managing director of England men's cricket said, "On behalf of everyone connected to England cricket and me personally, I would like to thank Matthew for all he has done for the team since his appointment. "He leaves his post as one of only three coaches who have won a men's World Cup with England. After three World Cup cycles in a short space of time, I now feel the team needs a new direction to prepare for the challenges ahead."

On the appointment of Trescothick, Key said: "Marcus Trescothick is well-respected in the dressing room and will take charge of team affairs alongside white-ball captain Jos Buttler. Marcus and Jos have a good rapport, and I think their partnership will help us maintain continuity and stability. The search for a full-time replacement will now begin."

Trescothick looked forward to taking the team to greater heights.

"I am looking forward to working with Jos Buttler, the players and coaches over the next few weeks. The focus is building towards the series against Australia and our plans for next year's Champions Trophy campaign. England cricket is in a strong position, and the potential is huge, given the quality we have available.

"It is about harnessing that potential and developing the work that has already been put in place by Matthew Mott." —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Durand Cup: NEUFC stroll past Bodoland 2-0

KOKRAJHAR, 30 JULY

Jithin MS and Ankith Padmanabhan scored a goal each as NorthEast United FC secured a facile 2-0 win over Bodoland FC in a Group E match of the Durand Cup here on Tuesday.

The first half was evenly poised with both the teams showing some intent while attacking, but it was NorthEast who had the better chances. The attacking trio of Nestor Albiach, Jithin and Parthib Gogoi, showed good creativity down the middle and through the wings. —*PTI*

PCB Chairman Naqvi set to become next ACC Prez

LAHORE, 30 JULY

Pakistan Cricket Board's incumbent chairman Mohsin Naqvi is set to become the next President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) later this year as per its rotation policy.

The matter of the president's post was discussed at a recent ACC meeting with Naqvi in line to become the next head. "When the ACC meets later this year, it will confirm that Naqvi will be the next president for a two-year term," a source said.

BCCI Secretary Jay Shah is the incumbent ACC president, having got one-year extension in January this year for a third consecutive term.

"When Shah steps down the PCB chief will take over," the source added. The ACC has recently awarded the hosting rights of the Asia Cup 2025 to India as the tournament will be held in T20 format and the 2027 edition in ODI format to Bangladesh.

This implies that two major events are scheduled in 2025 — the Champions Trophy in Pakistan in February-March followed by the Asia Cup — which will serve as a precursor to the T20 World Cup 2026.

The two events are again likely to ignite discussions and speculations on whether India would travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, or whether Pakistan will travel to India for the Asia Cup. —*PTI*

Mohsin Naqvi **PHOTO: X**

- BCCI Secretary Jay Shah is the incumbent ACC president, having got one-year extension in January this year for a third consecutive term